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KUWAIT

AL-SABAH SENDS MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO YAR

LD251824Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jun 78 LD

[Text] His highness the amir has sent a cable of condolence to Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the YAR Presidential Council, on the assassination of the late Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the YAR. He expressed his condolences to the fraternal Yemeni people and to the family of the late president.

OMAN

SULTAN QABUS SENDS CONDOLENCES TO YAR'S AL-'ARASHI

JN251540Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1510 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Muscat, 25 June--Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman has sent a cable of condolence to Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the YAR Presidential Council, on the assassination of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, yesterday morning.

In his cable of condolence, Sultan Qabus said: We, the government and people, denounce this heinous crime which was plotted by sinful hands that have sold their religion and Arabism to foreign forces. We would like to express our deep grief and sorrow, praying that God may have mercy on the late departed and grant solace to the fraternal Yemeni people and the Arab and Islamic nation.

Qais 'Abd al-Mun'im Zawawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, has also sent a similar cable of condolence to 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, YAR minister of foreign affairs.

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI REACTION TO YAR PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION

Condemnation Issued

LD242038Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jun 78 LD

[Text] The Royal Office tonight issued the following statement:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly denounces the abominable crime in which Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the presidential council of the Yemen Arab Republic, fell victim at the hands of criminal (?culprits) who sold their religion and their homeland to external forces whose aim is to shatter the Arab nation and prepare a suitable climate to realize their objectives and principles.

As these forces were not pleased to see fraternal Yemen march along the road of progress and advancement and enjoy security and stability under the leadership of its sincere sons, they resorted to assassinations, which only a coward would resort to. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will stand determined and resolute alongside the fraternal Yemeni people in safeguarding their faith, development and stability. It will not permit any foreign interference to achieve its aims in this noble Muslim country.

Khalid Sends Condolences

LD242358Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jun 78 LD

[Text] His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has sent the following message of condolence to His Excellency al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the Yemen Arab Republic Presidential Council, concerning the abominable crime against the late Lt Col Ahmad al-Ghashmi, Yemen Arab Republic president. The text of the message is as follows:

His Excellency al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the Presidential Council, San'a.

We have learned with great sorrow and pain of the painful incident in which His Excellency President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, fell victim. While we denounce this abominable crime which was hatched by criminal and sinful hands, we express to you and to your brother members of the Presidential Council and the sons of fraternal Yemen warmest condolences and sincere sympathy, praying to Almighty God to cover the deceased with his mercy and forgiveness and to grant patience to all and protect fraternal Yemen's security, unity and stability. From God we come and to Him we return.

Minister Leaves for Funeral

LD260942Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 26 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 26 June--Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education, left Riyadh this morning for San'a' to participate in the funeral of the late Yemeni President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi and to offer condolences in the name of King Khalid and the Saudi Government and people. He was accompanied by Gen 'Uthman al-Hamid, chief of the General Staff, and other senior officials. Al-Ghashmi, who was assassinated the day before yesterday, will be buried today.

Press Condemns Assassination

LD251034Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 25 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 25 June, SNA--All Saudi papers published this morning condemn the abominable assassination yesterday of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the YAR, and unanimously say that the aim of this abominable crime is to break up the Arab nation and to create a favorable atmosphere for attaining the objectives of foreign powers. The plot, they maintain, was directed against the leadership of beloved Yemen in order to bring misery once again to Yemen so that anarchy and division can rule there.

The newspaper AL-JAZIRAH, referring to the statement issued by the Saudi Royal Palace denouncing the abominable crime of Al-Ghashmi's assassination, writes: The attitude adopted by the kingdom reflects the sincerity and wisdom of our leadership and its anxiousness to maintain the good ties between the kingdom and Yemen and to preserve Saudi-Yemeni relations on a level which will permit them, whatever the circumstances, to tackle the plots which are directed not against Yemen alone but against our entire Arab nation and which will always be so.

Press Continues Denunciation

LD261030Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 26 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 June--Today's Saudi papers continue to denounce the assassination of YAR President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi and demand an end to the series of killings and assassinations. They highlight the news of the overwhelming Arab anger against and denunciation of the murderers, mercenaries and agents who have sold themselves to the enemies of Arabism and Islam and have given up all honorable, human values. In their editorials, the papers warn against communist designs to dominate the region and sow the seeds of evil.

The papers also highlight the firm support of Saudi Arabia for the YAR and the kingdom's refusal to allow any foreign intervention to accomplish its objectives in the fraternal Moslem country.

The newspaper AL-BILAD warns against the dimensions of the communist plan to dominate the area and plant the seeds of evil in it. It adds that what has taken place in the YAR makes it imperative for everyone to look more seriously at where they are treading and to realize the dangers threatening them.

Communism, it adds, is an active octopus and always looks hungrily at the Arab area. In conclusion, it calls on the Arabs to consolidate their ranks and show greater vigilance and alertness to check this danger.

PDRY

INA REPORTS OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING, COMMUNICATIONS CUT

JN260740Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 26 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 26 June--An INA correspondent in Aden has reported that mysterious events have been taking place as of early this morning in the PDRY capital of Aden. The correspondent said that soldiers and popular militia are now deployed in the capital and are blocking the roads. Aden radio began its normal programs at 0630 instead of 0600 by carrying Koran recitations.

The INA correspondent in Aden says that battles have taken place between the militia and the armed forces in the area of Aden airport. He further said that there is artillery and machinegun fire in the At-Tawwahi area where the Presidential Palace is located. He pointed out that communications with the outside world have been cut, and roads and airports have been closed.

A later report by the INA correspondent in Aden says that intermittent artillery fire can still be heard in the At-Tawwahi area, which is where the Presidential Palace, the Defense Ministry, the Prime Ministry and the Ministry of State Security are located. The INA correspondent saw a military aircraft overflying Aden at 0830 local time. The plane then headed toward the military airport adjacent to Aden International Airport.

The INA correspondent cites an eyewitness as saying that he saw planes and guns shelling the Presidential Palace, the Defense Ministry and the cabinet offices.

In a later dispatch, the correspondent says that the popular militia is now in control of the situation and is inspecting vehicles at key points and in the streets leading to At-Tawwahi.

The INA correspondent in Aden says that the situation is still not clear. However, he cites informed sources as saying that military units in Bab El Mandeb, in the second and third provinces and in the Salah ad-Din camp in the capital of Aden have mutinied.

The correspondent says that planes are now pounding the Presidential Palace and that columns of smoke rising from the vicinity of the Presidential Palace can be seen from a distance.

The capital of Aden spent a quiet and calm night following an expanded meeting held last night between the members of the Politburo, the Central Committee of the Unified Political Organization-Political Front and the members of the Presidential Council to discuss the accusations levelled against the PDRY concerning its involvement in the assassination of Lt Col Ahmad al-Ghashmi. It seems that the discussions did not result in any specific resolutions.

The INA correspondent says that the authorities asked hotel residents to remain in their hotels and not to go out to the streets, whereas all employees were asked to return to their houses. Aden radio has stopped its programs as usual at 0830 without any mention of the events.

The INA correspondent says that the shelling in the At-Tawwahi areas has eased, but the mysterious events taking place have not been settled decisively and the situation remains unclear. He says that all roads are closed and a curfew has been imposed, particularly on the roads leading to the At-Tawwahi quarter where the headquarters of Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali are located. Forces of the armed popular militia are patrolling the streets and are using government cars. These forces are in complete control of all intersections. Aden airport is still closed and communications with the outside world are completely cut. Aden radio is still closed.

The INA correspondent in Aden reports that ambulances have begun to carry wounded from the At-Tawwahi area.

In a report a short while ago, the INA correspondent said that gunfire was still being heard in the area and columns of smoke continued to be seen.

Further Report

JN260857Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0853 GMT 26 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 26 June--Shelling in the At-Tawwahi area, where the Presidential Palace and other important state buildings are located, has stopped. The INA correspondent in Aden says that ambulances continue their work, but the situation remains unclear. He says that the curfew is still in effect along all the roads leading to the Presidential Palace. The curfew does not apply to popular militia vehicles.

Aircraft have again begun concentrated bombing of the Presidential Palace, the headquarters of Chairman Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali.

Militia Controls Half of Aden

JN260941Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0933 GMT 26 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 26 June--It seems clear that militia forces have gained control of half of the capital of Aden. These forces are presently confiscating all civilian vehicles after ordering the occupants to get out of them.

The INA correspondent reports that, during a tour of the [business] quarter of Crater in Aden and of the coastal road in Aden, he saw throngs of people gathered in the poor areas of the town. He says that the situation remains unclear.

Bombing of Presidential Palace Continues

JN261201Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 26 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 26 June--INA correspondent 'Adnan Ma'ruf dispatch--At present, three aircraft are periodically bombing the Presidential Palace in the At-Tawwahi area. Citizens in the area have begun to leave their houses and move to other areas. From a distance the area being bombed looks like a battlefield and smoke can be seen from a distance of 5 km.

GOVERNMENT REACTS TO YAR PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION

Statement Issued

LD250757Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 25 Jun 78 LD

[Text] The Government of the PDRY has issued a statement lamenting the assassination of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces in the northern part of the homeland.

In its statement, the government declared its strong condemnation of the treacherous methods which took the life of the late President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, and before him, that of the late President Ibrahim Muhammad al-Hamdi, all (?within the space of 8 months).

The following is the text of the statement:

Masses of our Yemeni people: It was with great grief and sorrow that our Yemeni people heard the statement of the Armed Forces General Command in the northern part of the homeland lamenting the murder of brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

In the name of the government of the revolution and the Yemeni people in the southern part of the homeland, we express our deep condolences to the family of the late president and to his brothers, the chairman and members of the Presidential Council in the northern part of the homeland, and pray that the Almighty God, the most high, will give rest to the deceased within his spacious paradise.

The PDRY Government expresses its forceful condemnation of the treacherous methods which took the life of the late President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, and before him the late President Ibrahim Muhammad al-Hamdi, all within the space of 8 months.

Such treacherous methods are only resorted to by forces (?wronged by the murder of a relative and still denied blood revenge) and who are jealous of the gains, aspirations and hopes of our Yemeni people for liberation, unity and progress.

The PDRY Government strongly condemns any (?moves) and denies any accusations that might tend to impel our Yemeni people to fight and thus implement imperialist designs for a sweep on the gains of the revolutions of 26 September and 14 October.

It calls on the [word indistinct] brothers in the northern part of the homeland and on all honorable and patriotic forces to wake up to these designs and strive to thwart them.

May God give refuge to the deceased within his spacious paradise, together with all the martyrs of the Yemeni revolution.

Assassination Involvement Denied

LD251726Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Abdul Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman, under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met this afternoon with the heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to democratic Yemen and briefed them on the PDRY Government's stand toward the assassination of brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces in the northern part of the homeland.

The brother under secretary of the Foreign Ministry assured the heads of the diplomatic missions of the PDRY Government's clear stand embodied in the statement issued this morning. The brother under secretary strongly rejected any accusations against the government of the revolution in connection with the assassination of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi in the northern part of the homeland. He said such accusations were aimed at spreading a state of tension and instability in the region.

He added: Forces which are not interested in the existence of stability in our Yemeni land are trying to create an atmosphere of instability in the region.

He said: We remain anxious to establish brotherly relations between the two parts of Yemen. We have done our utmost for dialog between the two parts in a manner that will bring about progress and unity for our Yemeni people.

He also affirmed the eagerness of the government of the revolution to see stability and fraternal relations prevail in the region for the welfare, progress and prosperity of their peoples.

The brother under secretary of the Foreign Ministry asked the heads of the diplomatic missions to convey the PDRY Government's stand to their fraternal and friendly governments.

Condolences Sent to Al-Ghani

LD251128Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 25 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Nasir Muhammad, Politburo member and prime minister, has sent a telegram of condolence to brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister of the northern part of the homeland, on the previous incident which befell President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. The following is the text of the cable:

It was with grief and sorrow that we received the news of the assassination of brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, in an incident of treachery and [word indistinct]. (?On behalf of the government) in the southern part of the homeland, I express our deep sorrow at this painful calamity and wish you and the family of the deceased patience and consolation. We are of God and to Him we shall return.

Week of Mourning Announced

JN251317Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpt] Aden, 25 June--The PDR Command Council held an extraordinary session this morning following which it announced a 1-week period of official mourning for the soul of YAR President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, who was assassinated yesterday.

YAR

PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI ASSASSINATED 24 JUNE

Report of Death

JN241720Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Statement issued by the General Command of the armed forces]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate, sons of the brave Yemeni people in all parts of the Yemen Arab Republic and abroad: You have always stood firmly in the face of disasters, have challenged all plots and have emerged victorious. With great sorrow, pain and sadness we mourn the death of the believer Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. May God bless his soul and make paradise his final abode.

The assassination of the president was a treacherous act planned by a well-known side. This side has always been known for its plotting, treachery and betrayal of God, the nation and humanity.

The assassination occurred at 0900 today, 24 June 1978, when the president received in his office a special emissary with a letter from Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council. The emissary was carrying a briefcase which contained an explosive device. The moment the envoy opened the case, it exploded, killing our martyr President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi and the murderer, the treacherous emissary, something which contradicts basic international norms and human laws.

It is noteworthy that the perpetrator of this heinous crime and the implementer of this treachery was conveyed from Aden to San'a' by a special plane and was received at the airport by a special representative of the leader and martyr President al-Ghashmi--which reflects his trust and conviction--in order to accompany the envoy to the presidential office. This was in accordance with a telephone call from Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali to martyr President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi.

Great Yemeni people, the vicious hands in Aden have today committed the meanest, most outrageous and treacherous operation against you, your sovereignty, dignity and stability. Therefore, you must realize that your sovereignty, freedom, dignity and stability are liable to be exposed to the gangs of crime and reason until you settle your accounts with them.

The assassination of our leader, our president and the founder of our democratic life will not destroy the revolution and the republic and will not destroy our leadership and our struggle. The revolution shall remain firmly in existence. Our republic shall be immortal and our national sovereignty shall remain deep-rooted and will never be weakened by the perpetrators of crime and assassination.

The Yemeni people shall remain victorious, and those treacherous criminals will never achieve their mean ends. Our people, you have sacrificed heroes and leaders for the sake of your sovereignty, dignity and freedom, and our martyr President Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, is only one of those leaders and heroes who have shed their blood so that Yemen may live and the revolution continue.

Our Yemeni people inside and outside the country, the criminal hand which assassinated the president and leader, Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, today will never achieve its aim. Your firm steadfastness and your conviction in dignity, freedom and revolution and your awareness and the awareness of the armed forces will stand against these hands. The armed forces have protected the revolution and safeguarded its gains during the past 16 years. Today they are waiting for those who try to encroach upon your leadership, revolution and republic and will teach them a lesson.

Yemeni people, the democratic life which the president martyr founded is capable of forever preserving the gains, stability and sovereignty of the revolution. The martyr's chaste soul shall remain our guide on the road to progress, love, prosperity and democracy.

May God have mercy on the soul of the leader martyr Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. Woe to the criminal and treacherous hand. The evildoer shall not escape nemesis. We are from God and to God shall we return.

Presidential Council Formed

JN241712Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1655 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Statement issued by the People's Constituent Assembly]

[Text] In view of the dangers facing the country as a result of the criminal assassination to which the president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, the faithful martyr Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, fell victim, and out of the desire to maintain democracy and the stability of the situation in the country, the People's Constituent Assembly has discussed the situation with the political and military leaders and has decided to form a Presidential Council to assume the tasks of the president of the republic as follows:

Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, speaker of the People's Constituent Assembly, chairman.

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, the prime minister, member.

Lt Col 'Ali Shayba, the chief of staff, member.

Maj 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander of Ta'izz Province, member.

The People's Constituent Assembly affirms its full, immediate intent to perform its duty to elect a president of the republic according to constitutional procedure as soon as possible. God grants success.

Cabinet to Stay in Office

JN241729Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1716 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Presidential Council Decision No 1 of 1978]

[Text] The chairman of the Presidential Council, taking cognizance of the constitution and the statement of the People's Constituent Assembly on the formation of the Presidential Council, and following the approval of the Presidential Council, declares:

Article 1. Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and his government are empowered to continue in office.

Article 2. This decision shall come into force as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in San'a' on 19 Rajab 1398 Hegira, corresponding to 24 June 1978.

[Signed] Chairman of the Presidential Council, 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi.

Army Commander in Chief Appointed

JN241736Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1717 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Presidential Council Decision No 2 of 1978]

[Text] The chairman of the Presidential Council, taking cognizance of the constitution and the statement of the People's Constituent Assembly on the formation of the Presidential Council, and following the approval of the Presidential Council, declares:

Article 1. Lt Col 'Ali ash-Shayba is appointed commander in chief of the armed forces.

Article 2. This decision shall come into force as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in San'a' on 19 Rajab 1398 Hegira, corresponding to 24 June 1978.

[Signed] Chairman of the Presidential Council, 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi.

Deputy Commander Named

JN241745Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1718 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Presidential Council Decision No 3 of 1978]

[Text] The chairman of the Presidential Council, taking cognizance of the constitution and the statement of the People's Constituent Assembly on the formation of the Presidential Council, and according to the recommendation of the commander in chief of the armed forces and with the approval of the Presidential Council, declares:

Article 1. Maj 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is appointed deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and chief of staff.

Article 2. This decision shall come into force as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in San'a' on 19 Rajab 1398 Hegira, corresponding to 24 June 1978.

[Signed] Chairman of the Presidential Council, 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi.

RADIO ACCUSES ADEN REGIME OF ASSASSINATION

JN241838Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1722 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Our brave struggling Yemeni people: Whatever calamities, pains and sorrows you may encounter, and whatever frustration [words indistinct] you may face, you will continue your struggling march with insistence and steadfastness. Your march is one of construction, change, development and democracy. You will not stop or retreat, because various circumstances have made you mature, firm and cohesive.

The assassination of your leader and president, the martyr Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, at the hands of treachery, evil and aggression in Aden, will not impede your march, harm your cohesion or change your awareness and realization of the nature of things and of your real enemies. Your immortal revolution will continue, because you are its leader, protector and trigger. With what he has given to his people and homeland, the departed leader and president will remain alive. He will remain with the people in every step toward entrenching the firm bases of the Yemeni democracy, whose clear foundations were laid by the departed leader. He will remain with the people while they continue to achieve within the 5-year economic and social development plan, which was blessed and supported by the departed leader through his national resolutions. He will remain with the people in all their national gains achieved in various fields and in all internal and external levels.

Departed leader and President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi was a sincere son of Yemen who gave the country everything. He gave his life as the price for stability, progress and prosperity. This is a perfect addition to his history of national sacrifice, giving and martyrdom.

As the statement of the general command of our armed forces and security says on this painful and sorrowful day, those who are trying to stand in the way of the people--those who are professional criminals and addicted to treachery and evil--will not achieve their wicked aims. The great Yemeni people, inside and outside the country, we affirm to you that the criminal hand which today murdered the president and the leader, Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, to harm your freedom, pride, leadership and democracy, will never achieve what it wants because of your great steadfastness and deep faith in the revolution, pride and freedom. This hand will not achieve what it wants because of the awareness and heroism of your sons in the armed forces and security forces, who protected the revolution and its gains in the past. These forces will also protect the revolution and its gains today and in the future. These forces are alert and ready for those who try to harm your leadership, pride and stability. These forces will teach those the lessons they deserve.

The abode of the martyrs of your loyal sons will be in the immortal paradise. They deserve from God the highest of rewards. The martyr president and leader, Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, is one of these heroic martyrs and immortal leaders who passed away for Yemen, the revolution and republic. God is great. Calamity will overtake the evildoers.

Further Radio Comment

JN251910Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Thus was the martyr, faithful President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, martyred by criminal and treacherous hands while performing his national duty for the sake of God, the homeland and the citizens and for the sake of the whole of Yemen.

He received with warm welcome and solid faith the special envoy of Rubayyi' 'Ali, the chairman of the Presidential Council in Aden. He received him in this way because he believed deeply in the greater Yemen. He was interested in the issues of the entire Yemen, as we have always known. However, the hands of treachery and crime exploited this faith to commit a crime unprecedented in the history of mankind. The criminal clique in Aden does not believe in Yemen, but believes in destruction and murder. The criminal clique in Aden does not believe in unity but believes in [words indistinct]. For the sake of achieving such objectives, this criminal clique does not hesitate to commit the ugliest crimes against the Yemeni people.

The attempts by this criminal clique to undermine Yemen, its stability and its sovereignty have led to this capital crime--the assassination of the faithful President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi in an open and blatant manner. This criminal clique is full of malice against Yemen. Thus it did not take into consideration the sentiments, conscience and dignity of Yemen, Arabdom and the world. This crime has been denounced and condemned by the world states and by Yemeni citizens at home and abroad.

May the martyr's soul rest in peace. He understood since the beginning of his rule that democratic life is the strong shield to protect the people from the setbacks and obstacles. He did his best to achieve this kind of democratic life. Thus he gave his soul to God, reassured about the gains which have been made. We bid him farewell, confident of our strength to cope with all challenges thanks to the heritage he left for us, that is, an enlightened collective democratic system stemming from our noble religion and traditions and Yemeni ingenuity.

Yes, our country is fortified against plots [words indistinct] the democracy whose foundations were laid by martyr President al-Ghashmi. The people believe in democracy and they are embarking on the road of development under the wing of democracy. The army and security forces are protecting the people and democracy and have sided with the people in the battle of development and in all the battles.

Therefore, we tell those who perpetrated the assassination of President al-Ghashmi to undermine our gains and to drag us into chaos and confusion--we tell them: You were unfair and your assessments are mistaken. You are in the dock as criminals and you will gain nothing from your ugly crime except exposure of the criminal nature for which you are known. As for your non-national goals, you will not be able to achieve them. Yemen will remain and the revolution is strong and the gains are continuing. We will continue to build roads, schools, plants and farms to provide prosperity for the great Yemeni people.

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ARABIAN PENINSULA

Relations Severed

JN242055Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 24 June--The YAR has announced that it has severed its diplomatic relations with the PDRY. This was announced by 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, the YAR foreign minister, when he summoned the heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions, with the exception of the PLO representative, to the General Command of the armed forces in San'a' tonight.

Al-Asnaj informed the heads of diplomatic missions of the details of the incident involving the assassination of Lt Col Ahmad al-Ghashmi as given to him by Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani. The YAR has accused the PDRY of being behind the assassination of Al-Ghashmi.

According to the YAR prime minister's message as conveyed to the heads of missions, the late president was awaiting the arrival of the first special plane bringing a number of those who fled to South Yemen with Maj 'Abdallah 'Abd al-'Alim, [former YAR paratroop commander], who attempted an abortive coup against Al-Ghashmi a month ago. The YAR prime minister said that these people were supposed to have returned to San'a' a week ago, following a conversation between the presidents of both Yemens on this matter.

The prime minister added that in a telephone contact yesterday President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali affirmed that he was sending an envoy to Al-Ghashmi. The envoy arrived today. The San'a' airport control confirmed the arrival and said that the envoy wanted to see Al-Ghashmi immediately.

The YAR prime minister said: When he arrived at the presidential office, the envoy handed Al-Ghashmi an envelope containing the names of those returning from Aden. A few minutes later, the briefcase which the envoy was carrying exploded, killing President al-Ghashmi.

The prime minister continued: When we inquired about the name of the envoy from the captain of the special plane, the captain denied any knowledge of his name.

The prime minister said that the director of the Office of the Interior Minister was escorting the envoy, who was not searched, "because he was dispatched by the head of state in accordance with a prior agreement."

It has been reported that the plane involved is still at San'a' airport.

Investigation Proceeds

JN260826Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0808 GMT 26 Jun 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 26 June--The INA correspondent in San'a' says that Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the YAR Presidential Council, announced today that the Arab countries will soon be furnished with important information arrived at during the investigation into the assassination of President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi last Saturday. The correspondent quotes Al-Qadi al-'Arashi as saying: "Crew members of the PDRY plane which brought the PDRY envoy have disclosed important information on the operation."

Former Officer Accused

LD260845Y London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 26 Jun 78 p 2 LD

[By Ihsan Hijazi]

[Excerpt] Beirut, 25 June--An escaped army officer is believed by informed diplomatic sources here to be the mastermind of the assassination in San'a' yesterday of the North Yemeni President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi.

The sources identified the officer as Lt Col Abdullah Abdul al-Aalem [name as published], who escaped to Aden some four weeks ago, after his insurrection in the Ta'izz area in the southern part of the country was crushed by forces loyal to Al-Ghashmi.

INA REPORTS LIFE RETURNS TO NORMAL IN SAN'A'

JN250744Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0722 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 25 June--Life in the Yemeni capital of San'a' began normally this morning. All official and semi-official departments resumed activities, and commercial establishments opened for business.

Scores of citizens have been crowded around newstands since early morning to learn about the details of the assassination of YAR President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, who was killed in his office yesterday morning by a bomb contained in a briefcase.

A large photo of President al-Ghashmi was published on the front page of the official newspaper ATH-THAWRAH, and the paper's editorial stressed the Yemeni people's capability to overcome the ordeal.

The paper said that even if hands of hate and rancor have been able to assassinate President al-Ghashmi, they will not be capable of assassinating the hopes and aspirations of the Yemeni people.

The newspaper also published the statements issued by the Presidential Council yesterday.

PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI BURIED IN SAN'A' 26 JUNE

LD261042Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 26 Jun 78 LD

[Text] San'a', 26 June--The funeral of the late president, Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, took place at 1000 today. The president was buried at the martyrs cemetery in a great funeral ceremony.

The cortege was headed by Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the Presidential Council; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Republican Council; the ministers and senior civilian and military officials. Members of the Arab diplomatic corps and thousands of Yemenis also took part.

NEW ROUND OF PEACE CONSULTATIONS BEGINS

NC240623Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0158 GMT 24 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 June--Egypt and the United States have begun a new round of consultations to discuss the prospects for pushing forward the peace process in the coming stage in view of Israel's negative reply to the U.S. questions on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

President Anwar as-Sadat will receive U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts at noon tomorrow, Saturday. The U.S. ambassador has asked for the meeting on instructions from U.S. President Carter to discuss the next step now that the United States has completed its study of the Israeli reply to the U.S. questions.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today met with U.S. Ambassador Eilts for 2 hours. The U.S. ambassador briefed Foreign Minister Kamil on the U.S. reaction to the Israeli reply and on the outcome of the U.S.-Israeli consultations on this subject. These consultations took place between Washington and Tel Aviv in the last few days.

In its Saturday edition, the newspaper AL-AHRAM says that the United States seeks from these consultations the following:

1. The United States wants to know how to continue its contacts with Egypt and Israel regarding the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
2. The United States wants to choose the best way to continue the process of consultations. One of the proposals aired is for U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and the U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East, Alfred Atherton, to visit Egypt and Israel in July.
3. The United States will ask for more clarifications from Egypt on President Anwar as-Sadat's proposal regarding the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

AL-AHRAM says that tomorrow's talks between President as-Sadat and Ambassador Eilts will deal with the U.S. reaction to the talks which Deputy Prime Minister and War Minister Gen 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamali and People's Assembly Speaker Sayyid Mar'i have held with President Carter and other U.S. officials.

As-Sadat Meets Eilts

NC241520Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jun 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has received U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts. The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. Kamil met with the U.S. ambassador for 2 hours yesterday. The U.S. ambassador gave President as-Sadat a letter from President Carter and received President as-Sadat's reply to the letter.

President as-Sadat has stated that the contents of the letter cannot be revealed until the U.S. President has replied to his excellency's letter to President Carter. He said that the general situation is crystallizing into a serious attempt by President Carter to give impetus to the peace process. He said that as soon as we arrive at a satisfactory concept with the United States we will announce it immediately.

AL-AHRAM Reports

NC250901Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0535 GMT 25 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 June--In its Sunday edition the newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that President Anwar as-Sadat informed the United States, through U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts when they met today, of Egypt's official rejection of the proposals contained in the Israeli reply to the U.S. questions about the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at the end of the transitional period provided for in Israeli Prime Minister Begin's plan for autonomy.

The paper says that President as-Sadat informed the U.S. ambassador that although the Israeli answer was basically addressed to the United States, the principles contained in this answer are completely rejected by Egypt because they completely ignore the Palestinians' rights and deny the principle of withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The paper says that President as-Sadat has asked Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil to prepare a full Egyptian plan on the proposal which President as-Sadat had made and which calls for the restoration of the West Bank to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt. AL-AHRAM says that the U.S. ambassador informed President as-Sadat that the United States is determined to reactivate the peace efforts in the area in the coming phase. As an affirmation of this, U.S. President Carter has decided to send Vice President Mondale to Egypt.

The paper says that the Egyptian plan for peace in the Middle East, according to the proposal made by President Anwar as-Sadat regarding the West Bank and Gaza, is based on the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza as a condition for achieving peace. Jordan will assume its responsibility in the West Bank, while Egypt will assume the administration of the Gaza Strip. This measure will be carried out for a limited period while security measures and other arrangements are being discussed with Israel. The Palestinian question will be solved within an Arab framework on the basis of the termination of the Israeli military presence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Before meeting with the U.S. ambassador, President as-Sadat today met with Husni Mubarak and Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil to put the final touches to Egypt's position and its rejection of the Israeli plan and to outline the main lines of President as-Sadat's plan for the West Bank and Gaza. As-Sadat's plan gained the interest of the United States and was described by U.S. President Carter as a constructive and practical proposal.

Kamil Statement

NC250611Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has announced that Egypt is currently preparing an Egyptian peace plan for the Middle East based on President as-Sadat's proposal on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The foreign minister said that the plan is expected to be made final within 2 days, and then it will be delivered officially to the United States. President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat had proposed that the West Bank be returned to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt as an interim solution until negotiations on the future of the Palestinian residents are completed.

Commenting on reports that he will meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in London, the foreign minister said that such a possibility exists. It will be the first meeting between them since the political talks in Jerusalem were suspended last January after Egypt accused Israel of intransigence.

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D 3

EGYPT

Mondale To Visit

NC250800Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Jun 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will receive U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale on 3 July. The talks which the president will conduct with the U.S. vice president will deal with the details of the moves to be made in the next phase.

MENA has reported that the U.S. vice president's visit to Egypt is unofficial and that Mr Mondale may carry with him a message for President as-Sadat from U.S. President Carter. These talks could constitute the beginning of a new peace initiative in the Middle East. Mr Mondale is scheduled to visit Israel on 29 June.

News agencies add that Mondale's visit may be preceded by a meeting between Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. Washington is trying to arrange the holding of this meeting in London. It is possible that, based on the outcome of this meeting, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will decide whether or not to make a new mediation trip to the Middle East.

ITALIAN TV CORRESPONDENTS INTERVIEW AS-SADAT

NC242130Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 24 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 June [as received]--President Anwar as-Sadat has reaffirmed that peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East without a solution of the Palestinian issue. He said that the Israeli Government has not been able to cross the barriers which he crossed when he visited Jerusalem. He said that at one point he felt that the Israelis were not at all ready for peace.

President as-Sadat added: We are ready to give Israel peace, security and neighborliness, but we are not ready to give up Arab territory. The president also warned against the dangers resulting from the Soviet penetration of Africa. He said that for the first time Soviet soldiers have gone to fight outside the Soviet security belt as happened in Ethiopia's war against Somalia. He described this Soviet line as very grave.

President as-Sadat strongly criticized the attitude of the Egyptian leftist party. He said that this party has tried to spread hatred and incite class struggle. He pointed out that the Italian Communist Party is pursuing a nationalist line compatible with Italy's interest while the leftists party in Egypt is directed by Moscow. [passage indistinct] This came in an interview which President as-Sadat gave to an Italian television team at the president's resthouse in Al-Ma'murah.

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's interview with the Italian television team. The team consisted of political commentator [Mario Basturi], special envoy of Italian television (Carlo Mazarella) and special envoy for Middle East affairs (Michael Lobrano).

Question: When we watched you speaking in the Knesset, we believed that peace would be achieved and that the Arabs and the Israelis would reach peace within a day. However, it seems that the momentum of your initiative has slowed down. It is like watching a movie in slow motion.

Answer: I will begin by greeting our guests from Italy and by expressing to them, on behalf of the Egyptian people and my own behalf, our gratitude, as I have always repeated, for Italy's principled stand, particularly during the 1967 battle when Europe and the whole world except Italy boycotted us. In addition to the military defeat, there were also very acute economic difficulties. However, we will never forget [Italy's stand] and I always repeat this to all the Italian friends with whom I meet. Please convey my greetings to all the Italian people because we do not forget friends who stand with us in times of difficulty.

As for the question and the peace initiative, I like the term used by our friend who asked the question and who described the initiative as a slow-motion movie. It is true that the peace process, after it gained momentum presaging further momentum, is instead in slow motion, as he says, but it has not stopped.

A few days ago I received the U.S. ambassador on his return from the United States. He conveyed to me a message from President Carter. Before he left-- 10 days before--I had handed him a message from me to President Carter. President Carter and I have an almost daily exchange of views.

The picture now, very simply, is that the Israeli Government has not been able to cross the barriers which I crossed in one jump in my journey to Jerusalem. They are hesitant and suspicious. Even more than this, I am afraid to say that at one point I felt they were not ready at all for peace.

As for us. I mean as far as we are concerned, while preparing for the Geneva conference last summer I became convinced that 75 percent of the problem was the psychological barrier between us. This barrier is the natural outcome of four wars in 30 years and of the hatred and violence and all that happened during this period.

As soon as I became convinced that 75 percent of the problem was the psychological barrier and thought that if we went to Geneva with this psychological barrier we would not achieve or reach any result, I made my decision and made one jump to cross the psychological complexes, the psychological barrier and suspicion--all this so we would be able to sit down in direct talks and put everything on the table.

Asked about Israel's proposal to reach a separate conciliation [sulh] with Egypt, the president said: During my trip to Jerusalem, in my speech to the Knesset and to the Israeli people and later during Begin's visit to Ismailia and our meeting there on 15 December, I revealed what I am seeking--peace but not a separate agreement [ittifaq] because a separate agreement with Egypt will not bring about peace [salam] in the area. Furthermore, at the Knesset I said--and I again repeat what I said--that even if Israel reaches an agreement with Egypt and with Syria and with Jordan without solving the Palestinian issue, there will be no peace, because after 5 or 10 years we will again revert to war.

I said that at the Knesset. My trip was for the sake of peace. It is true that although I was not speaking for Egypt alone, everybody knows and Israel is aware that the real force is here in Egypt. The decision on war or peace is made here in Egypt. They are aware of this.

During his latest visit, Israel's Defense Minister Weizman actually proposed a separate solution [hall] to me. That was over a month ago. I answered him with what I am telling you now. If signing a peace agreement between myself and Israel would establish peace, I would not have hesitated to sign it immediately. But this will not establish peace. What will establish peace is the solution of the Palestinian issue, which is the crux of the whole problem. This is why I do not want a third disengagement or a partial solution or a mere agreement on Sinai. No. I want the peace which the whole world and I seek and which my people and I seek, but naturally it must be a peace that is based on justice.

I have had long sessions with 'Arafat. This talk is not new. He said the same thing about the first disengagement in 1974. It was proved later that the first disengagement was a step toward peace. He also said the same thing about the second disengagement. It was also proved later that it was another step toward peace. He is saying the same thing about my initiative.

I want to tell you something very important. It is regrettable that the Soviet Union and Syria are putting 'Arafat in the position of reiterating whatever they say. This is my objection to 'Arafat. I want the Palestinians to voice their own opinion and not that of the Soviet Union or Syria.

The president then discussed the phases of thought and preparation leading up to the initiative. He said: This has a story which I will repeat. The peace process began here in Egypt. I started it with President Nixon and his secretary of state, Dr Kissinger, in 1974 with the first disengagement. Then President Ford came and we concluded the second disengagement. It was agreed that after the second disengagement the next step in the peace process would be that of going to Geneva and achieving a comprehensive solution. This means that after the second disengagement there is no room for a third disengagement or anything else but peace.

When President Carter became president, he committed himself to this. Last September he received all of the Arab foreign ministers and the Israeli foreign minister. I then discovered--and I said this to the 2d Army about 2 days ago--that, regrettably, as we were preparing to go to Geneva last summer, the disputes among ourselves as Arabs were greater than our disputes as Arabs with Israel because regrettably, some of us, Syria in particular, had a different line. It later transpired that Syria, in agreement with the Soviet Union, had no intention of going to Geneva.

I received a personal handwritten letter from President Carter. I cannot disclose its contents because it was personal. However, President Carter's explanation of the picture made me answer him with my own personal, handwritten letter. I told him: I believe that what we need now is some daring action. Until that moment I had no idea at all as to what I was going to do but I was convinced that something daring had to be done. While I was contemplating the subject, Israeli Prime Minister Begin had already visited Romania and had talks with Ceausescu, who is a friend of both sides. He is Israel's friend as well as my trusted friend.

Before thinking of the initiative or its form or anything else, I made a trip to Romania to meet Ceausescu and ask him two questions.

The first question was: Does Mr Begin really want peace? I knew that Begin was his friend and had visited him. That was the first question. The second question was: If Mr Begin really wants peace, is he strong enough to be able to go along with me to achieve peace? Naturally, I had reservations about Prime Minister Rabin [as received] because he was not strong enough--in the event we reached an agreement for example--to present such an agreement to the Knesset and the Israeli people.

When I asked Ceausescu these two questions, his reply to the first was that Begin really wanted peace. As for the second, he told me that he had spent 6 hours talking with Begin--a discussion between two persons without delegations--and that he had come to the conclusion that Begin really wanted peace and could ratify peace and present it to the Israeli people and the Knesset.

After meeting with Ceausescu, I left for Iran. On the way from Romania to Iran--while flying over Turkey, to be exact--I started having the first notions about the initiative. The first notion was that I would invite the big five leaders who have veto right at the Security Council to go to Jerusalem. I would also call on the Arab confrontation states--Syria, Jordan, the Palestinians and Lebanon--to go there also so that we could try in Jerusalem, along with the big five which have the veto right, to reassure Israel and to agree on an agenda for the Geneva conference. It would be unreasonable for me to bring the big five for negotiations because they would not have time and also because it is not their problem, but ours and Israel's.

That was my first notion, especially because everybody was my personal friend--Hua Kuo-feng in China, Giscard in France, Callaghan in England and Carter in America, and even the fifth state that has the veto right. I was going to invite Brezhnev. You might be astonished when you learn that despite the very bad relations between us, I still have a personal friendship with Brezhnev alone. For this reason I was going to invite him together with the other four. That was the first notion.

I arrived in Iran but I did not discuss this matter with the shah. I discussed with him the affairs of the area and the bilateral relations between the two countries. I then went back to Saudi Arabia and there I met with King Khalid, but I did not broach the subject with him.

During my flight from Saudi Arabia to Egypt, I changed my mind about this initiative because I said to myself that one of the big five might decline and most certainly one of them would inevitably decline because of his engagements or because he did not have time or for any other reasons.

If one of them declined, the others might become hesitant or my initiative might be understood as having failed. I asked myself: What is the problem between us and Israel? I had wanted to invite the big five in order to assure Israel. Why should not I go personally to the Israelis to assure them myself? The initiative was born while I was on my way from Saudi Arabia to Cairo. I did not speak about it with anyone. When President Carter heard of it, he as well as the news agencies said that it was very stunning. They used the English word "stun." President Carter had no inkling whatsoever of this.

Question: How did the people here receive the initiative? Did they take it as a maneuver or for local consumption?

Answer: Yasir 'Arafat was present when I told the People's Assembly that I was ready to go to the ends of the earth and to the Knesset itself in order to achieve peace and spare my sons the soldiers and officers from shedding a drop of blood.

Yasir 'Arafat was present. In fact he took it as being designed for local consumption, but I meant it. The Egyptian foreign minister at that time also believed it was for local consumption. I traveled to Syria 2 days before my visit to Jerusalem and met with President al'Asad. The Egyptian foreign minister believed this talk was for local consumption. When I told him that I meant what I said, he resigned. He could not take it. He resigned.

What astonished me was the extremely warm welcome which the Israeli people, especially the Israeli women, accorded me in Jerusalem, particularly after my speech before the Knesset. When I returned to Cairo, 5 million people out of Cairo's 8 million population came out to welcome me. I was stunned because I thought that it would take time for the people to understand my initiative. I was really stunned.

Question: What is your philosophy regarding peace and socialism?

Answer: We, as I have said, are in a process of peace. We are after peace and not after solving the Sinai problem.

As for socialism, we radically differ with Marxism. Our socialism is democratic socialism in the sense that the individual's relationship with society is interpreted differently by us than by Marxism. Marxism sacrifices the individual for the sake of the society.

Under our democratic socialism our goal is man, his dignity and prosperity. We differ with Marxism in that in our socialism we believe in the divine religions. We are believers. We are a people of believers. The three divine religions and the three divine books descended on our land.

Our third difference with Marxism is that personal effort or personal incentive must be encouraged so that man will assert himself and own something for himself while giving the state its due.

Question: What is your reaction to the enormous Soviet presence in Africa?

Answer: This is an extremely serious matter. It is a matter to which people have not paid attention, and what is now happening is very significant. It is the first time in history that the Soviet Union has sent a Soviet soldier to fight outside the Soviet security belt. By the Soviet security belt I mean the Balkans and the surrounding states. We are aware of what happened when Hungary stirred, when Czechoslovakia stirred. The Soviet Union has always moved within its own security belt.

It is the first time that a Soviet soldier has gone out to Ethiopia to fight alongside Ethiopia against Somalia. This phenomenon is extremely serious, and I do not know why the world has not paid attention to it. The Soviet Union did not even send one soldier to Vietnam, which was a communist country. It sent arms but not one soldier. I consider this to be an extremely serious matter. I have spoken and warned about it. I warned the Congress in 1977--last year. I drew their attention to this matter and to everything that took place a year later. They did not believe me.

Some of them did not believe me while others were beset by the Vietnam complex. The Americans still have the Vietnam complex. I told them: We do not want an American soldier to fight our battle. We want arms because it is unreasonable for the United States, at a time when the Soviet Union is imposing an arms embargo on us, to also impose an embargo. In this way the Soviet Union gets a free hand in Africa.

President as-Sadat went on to say: There is a high degree of Soviet influence in Africa and in this area. We in Egypt are responsible for this. Why? Because we opened the door to it. I recall the day we received Khrushchev as he disembarked from the ship in Alexandria. In the harbor he delivered a speech saying he was putting his feet on the land of Africa for the first time. That was Khrushchev's visit in 1964.

We let the Soviet Union enter the area. We let it enter because the West was mistreating us, was following an imperialist policy and was refusing to sell us arms or build factories or help us build our country. We thought that the Soviet Union was an ally and would not have imperialist aims. However, it later became clear to us that this was not so.

For this reason and because I do not want my people to ever live in a police state like the Soviet Union, which suppresses the individual and which is surrounded by an iron curtain--for this reason I totally reject communism.

Question: The recent measures which were adopted in Egypt appear to us in Italy as being against the freedom of the press and the freedom of movement toward the right or left.

Answer: I want to clarify this matter to you although I have explained it several times. But I want to explain it fully to you. For the first time in Egypt and only 6 months after I assumed office, I closed down the detention camps forever. Egypt is the only country in the Middle East where there are neither detention camps nor detainees since 1971.

There is freedom of the press for the first time in 40 years. Since 1974, that is for 4 and 1/2 years now, there is all this, and a permanent constitution providing all types of freedom. It even was more than the French constitution because ours and the French constitution are almost alike. It includes more democratic provisions than the French constitution. The president of the republic in Egypt cannot dissolve the People's Assembly except by a popular referendum; that is, there should be a point of disagreement. This proves that there is democracy.

What happened recently was that the leftwing was legalized for the first time in Egypt. The pre-23 July Revolution laws regarded the leftwing as scabias and were after it. 'Abd an-Nasir jailed leftwing members for 5 years.

I said no, this is not our type of democracy. Like any democracy in the world there should be right, left and center.

The leftwing party was founded but it adhered to old mentalities. It did not change its concepts or its methods. It was recognized and acted in the open instead of underground. It continued to implement, however, its plan of stirring up the people.

Even in Italy and in France the Marxist parties have adopted a new line in compliance with the existing conditions in their country. The Italian Communist Party said it does not object to NATO and does not object to cooperating with other parties. The same thing happened in France in the recent elections.

Here they are still following Stalin's old course. They have now their own official paper and party. Their paper follows the same line of destruction, casting doubts, stirring up the people and attacking the government. Last year I read that some in your country said that when they join the government they would not oppose the country staying in NATO.

Question: Why do you, Mr President, stand against communism?

Answer: The Italian Communist Party, which is one of the strongest communist parties, supports national issues. However, the communist party here, because Moscow said the initiative is wrong. And because Moscow said that the events of 18 and 19 January-- when they [the communists in Egypt] tried to set fire to Cairo, set fire to buses and break into shops to steal--were a popular uprising, the party said this was a popular uprising.

Question: Your book "the search for identity," which has been printed in the United States and translated into French and will be translated into Italian, is full of events and news, but the reader is left with a feeling that President as-Sadat has a strong feeling toward ideologies. The impression we have about the Egyptians and the Arabs is that they are fanatic, but you, Mr President, appear to be different. Are we correct? You seem to be a new reality in Egypt.

Answer: I am very reluctant to speak about myself, but this book and all the reports in it are about my life in the village and until today. I believe in all the values I wrote about in this book. I believe in the values of the village and the values of the one family.

I must stop those who want to arouse hatred in the country, such as the communists. I have not resorted to martial law. Even when martial law existed and I was a military governor, I did not use martial law, and I will never use it at all. I want a one-family society. I learned this in the village. In a one-family society everyone feels with everyone else and everyone has his own ideas. I do not expropriate ideas, but I am against those who try to impose on the Egyptian people a bloody massacre, a police regime or a return to the days of King Faruq.

Question: What is your opinion on the campaigns against Egypt by some information media, and what is their aim?

Answer: First of all I want to seize this opportunity to extend my condolences to the family of my friend Aldo Moro and to all the Italian people. I called on him during my visit to Italy in 1977 and we had a long meeting. I would like to say that these elements, a very small number of Marxists and opportunists, are the ones who contact foreign correspondents to give them the impression that there is no stability in Egypt and that it is one of the Third-World countries in which a coup takes place every day. I will give you two examples: In 1973 they circulated reports throughout the world that Egypt was finished. This took place while I was preparing for the battle, and then I waged the battle. Before my initiative in November, if you review the world press at that time, you will find reports that Egypt was on the verge of total collapse. Well, if Egypt was on the verge of collapse, how could its president undertake an initiative like the one I did, defying all conditions?

I wanted to tell the foreign press to report the real picture, not only the statements of spiteful people. The present measures are not taken to restrict the freedom of the press. Never. I believe that, in Italy, if a journalist sells his work to another state and writes articles insulting Italy while he resides in Italy and enjoys security, freedom and democracy, I believe you would take action against him. This is what I have done now in respect to those writing for the press in Kuwait, Paris and elsewhere.

Answering a question about guarantees for justice, the president said: I gave all this. Why? So that the parliament would be the highest legislative authority in the country. The socialist prosecutor submits his report to parliament and parliament adopts its decision. However, if a question comes under the law or under the criminal code, it is investigated by the judiciary. However, there must be political investigation since many people exploit freedom and democracy to strike at their country. I am against this. You know how many all these number in Egypt? There are not more than 50 or 60, including journalists, writers and leftists.

Asked about press reports on events in Egypt and whether these aimed at portraying Egypt as incapable of protecting peace, the president said: It is disgraceful that untrue pictures have been conveyed abroad and I reproach foreign correspondents here for conveying untrue pictures to you. I say that fear can kill a man. I do not want my country to know fear any more. You can ask the man in the street. This is a free country, where you can go anywhere and meet anyone you like. It is not like Moscow, where you cannot go further than 15 km from Moscow. Here you can meet and ask anyone anything. I safeguard democracy against those attempting to exploit democracy. I would like to tell you that I have acted only after a public referendum and in accordance with the constitution. These are not administrative measures.

Question: We are going to interview an Israeli minister. It is possible it will be Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. Have you a message you wish to convey to him?

Answer: I would like to state the following: We are prepared to give Israel peace, security and neighborliness in the full sense of these three points, but we are not prepared to give Israel Arab territory.

[Question] Thank you Mr President.

AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

NC242010Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jun 78 NC

[Text] In a message he sent to the People's Assembly today on the occasion of the measures he has taken to establish the foundations for sound democratic practice, President Anwar as-Sadat asserts his determination to put into effect the controls and the guarantees that will enhance the Egyptians' confidence in the present and future of their country and increase their confidence that the coming generations will uphold the contents of his message in opportune circumstances for sound national work.

President as-Sadat notes that the attainment of this national objective requires two things. The first is the entrenchment of genuine Egyptian values and freeing these values from any defects that have clung to them. The second thing is the establishment of the foundations for sound democratic practice that will enable individuals to act as a wise society seeking the public interest and shunning selfishness.

In his message to the People's Assembly, the president praises the sincerity of the Egyptian people and the gains that have been achieved by the vigilant masses on the path of freedom and sound democracy.

The president says: We have been eager to safeguard the democratic experiment without jeopardizing the basis of the new Egyptian society--socialism, democracy, social peace and national unity.

The president says: In the October 1973 war we regained Egypt's and the Arab nation's prestige with resolve and determination. It is with the same resolve and determination that we have waged the battle for peace.

President as-Sadat then refers to the malevolent minority group which has departed from the people's unanimous response to the call for the protection of the domestic front. His excellency says that this malevolent group has tried to gnaw away at the homeland's structure in order to achieve cheap, personal gains at the expense of the toiling masses.

The president adds that in order to protect the democratic experiment and draw a line between freedom and anarchy and between opinion and conspiracy, it has been necessary for us not to hesitate in taking the path which insures putting an end to tampering with the masses' interests. His excellency also refers to the action to correct the course of the 15 May Revolution. He says this action is based on two things. First of all, this action must be carried out under the canopy of the supremacy of the law and within a sound constitutional framework. Secondly, the broad base of the Egyptian people must participate in this action, which aims at protecting the experiment from this malevolent minority.

AS-SADAT SENDS LETTER TO PRESIDENT TITO

NC232000Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito has received a letter from President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. The Egyptian ambassador in Belgrade, Jamal Mansur, handed the letter to Assistant Federal Secretary Budimir Loncar at a meeting the two men held today. The Belgrade MENA correspondent has learned that the letter is part of the constant consultations and coordination between the political leaderships of the two countries.

Well-informed sources have told the MENA correspondent that the letter is of great importance because it contains the viewpoints and assessments of the Egyptian political leadership on recent Middle East developments, the peaceful efforts exerted so far and Egypt's adherence to its principled, fixed stand on the just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the face of Israel's intransigence.

The same sources noted that President as-Sadat has expressed serious concern over the extremely grave dangers which face the nonaligned movement due to big powers' intervention in the domestic affairs of specific countries among the nonaligned states. The intervention is aimed at sowing discord and conflicts among the nonaligned states, particularly in relation to the latest developments in Africa.

These sources have also pointed out that Egyptian-Yugoslav consultations on the higher political level are laying the groundwork for the nonaligned foreign ministers conference scheduled to be convened on 24 July in Belgrade. These consultations reflect the major role being played by Cairo and Belgrade in preserving the unity of the nonaligned movement against counterinfluences.

AS-SADAT CABLES CONDOLENCES TO YAR CHAIRMAN

NC251735Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 25 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun--President Anwar as-Sadat has expressed his deep grief and sorrow at the martyrdom of YAR President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. He described the assassination as an act of treachery perpetrated by traitors who bear a grudge against the struggling and faithful sons of the Arab nation.

In a cable he sent today to YAR Presidential Council Chairman al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arshi, President as-Sadat said that this treacherous blow dealt to Yemen by people who have gone astray will, God willing, spring back on them. He added that the time has come for the Arab nation to take to task those who undermine its honor, dignity and glorious past.

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's cable to Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arshi:

I have learned with deep grief and sorrow about the martyrdom of the late President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. This was an act of treachery perpetrated by some traitors who bear a grudge against the struggling and faithful sons of the Arab nation. The late president, may God bless his soul, was one of the sincerest sons of the Arab nation who defended Arab rights, supported Arab solidarity and worked faithfully and sincerely for the good of his homeland and his Arab nation.

This treacherous blow dealt to your fraternal country by people who have gone astray, will, God willing, spring back on them. The time has come for the Arab nation to take to task those who undermine its honor, dignity and glorious past. While expressing the sincerest and heartfelt condolences of the Egyptian people and myself to you, your fraternal people and the family of the departed president, I wish to say that I am confident that fraternal Yemen will continue on the road of glorious struggle and rally around their leadership, upholding the banners of freedom, glory and dignity. Only the traitors, those bearing grudges and the hired agents will fall. From God we come and to him we return.

AS-SADAT ISSUES DECREE ON MILITARY APPOINTMENTS

NC250025Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2340 GMT 24 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 June--President Anwar as-Sadat has issued a republican decree appointing:

Maj Gen Hasan Tawfiq as assistant war minister. He was formerly director of the armed forces organization and administration department.

Maj Gen Engineer Hasan as-Sayyid as assistant war minister. He is currently the director of the Major Projects Department in the armed forces. This department builds military towns and big installations for the armed forces.

Maj Gen 'Umar Tahir al-Muji as assistant chief of staff of the armed forces. He formerly worked as assistant to the commander of the 2d Field Army during the October war and then as director of the Training Department.

Maj Gen Yusuf 'Afifi as commander of the 3d Field Army. He was formerly a division commander during the crossing of the Suez Canal in the October war and was awarded the military star of honor.

Maj Gen 'Abd Rab an-Nabi Hafiz as commander of the 2d Field Army. He was a division commander during the crossing of the canal in the October war and was awarded the military star of honor.

Maj Gen Ahmad Badawi as director of the Armed Forces Training Department. [formerly commander of the 3d Field Army]

Maj Gen Fu'ad 'Aziz Ghali as director of the armed forces Organization and Administration Department. [formerly commander of the 2d Field Army]

Maj Gen Hasan Abu Sa'dah as director of the armed forces Operations Department. He was formerly a division commander in the 2d Field Army sector during the crossing of the canal in the October war and was awarded the military star of honor. He was then appointed chief of staff of the 3d Army and then commander of the western military area.

A responsible source in the War Ministry has stated that the transfer of some commanders from their posts to other posts is a routine matter necessitated by the nature of the work in the armed forces and in accordance with the Officers Service Law issued in 1959 and the Leadership and Control Law issued in 1968.

Both laws stipulate that the duration of the appointment in certain key posts is 4 years, which can be extended by another 1 year by republican decree. Both Maj Gen Ahmad Badawi and Maj Gen Fu'ad 'Aziz Ghali have occupied their posts for 4 and a half years.

The source added that this system is adopted in the armies of other states, which change some of their high-ranking commanders after a maximum of 3 or 4 years. The wisdom behind this is to inject new blood into key posts in the armed forces.

CAIRO RADIO COMMENTS ON ISRAELI STATEMENT

NC241545Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jun 78 NC

[Abd al-'Aziz Hammad commentary: "The Tactics of Preventive Propaganda in the Israeli Policy"]

[Text] There is a lack of objectivity and of formal logic in many of the attitudes and statements of the senior Israeli officials. However, the statement issued by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office yesterday, attributed to a high-ranking official in Begin's office, deserves special attention from more than one aspect, because the issue involved goes far beyond the question of objectivity and logic. The statement accuses the United States of adopting a clear policy of support for, or bias in favor of, the Arab states and of casting doubt on the usefulness of the U.S. role of mediator in the Middle East conflict. We see no need to prove the lack of both objectivity and logic in the statement. This is especially true because the senior U.S. officials themselves have often exposed Israeli propaganda for adopting the tactic deliberately and with premeditation. If you are not with us, then you are against us.

Israel is accusing the United States of being clearly biased toward the Arab side and is casting doubt on the objectivity of the U.S. mediation in the Middle East conflict at a time when observers expect U.S. diplomacy to embark on an active campaign of making initiatives to get things moving toward a peaceful settlement in the area.

Naturally, Israel is well aware that its reply to the U.S. questions about the future of the West Bank and the Gaza sector and about Palestinian participation in determining their own future has inflicted a setback on the peace efforts. To surmount this setback new proposals must be presented to get the situation moving again.

Therefore, the Israeli politicians--in light of the continued U.S. commitment to work for a settlement and in light of the responsibility of the U.S. policy for many aspects of the Israeli attitude by virtue of the fact that the U.S. political, military and economic support is one of the main factors of strength of the Israeli strategy--realize that if U.S. diplomacy begins making proposals that are basically suitable for the resumption of the negotiations they will either have to accept these proposals or enter into a confrontation entailing serious consequences with the United States.

Therefore, the Israeli politicians want to bar the way for U.S. diplomacy before it begins playing its expected role. By doing this, they will free themselves from having to make a choice of either accepting the U.S. proposals or entering into a confrontation with the United States.

The Israelis believe they can achieve their objective through preventive propaganda war based on the concept of intimidation. They believe they can do this by accusing the United States of bias toward the Arabs and reservations against Israel. This means, as Israeli propaganda wishes it to mean, that the expected U.S. proposals will be in favor of the Arabs at the expense of Israel. Therefore, U.S. diplomacy will either withdraw in the face of this intimidation, or Israel will continue its propaganda war after having paved the way for it by its accusations.

On our part we do not wish to comment on this exposed Israeli plan. However, even elements within the Israeli Government itself and Israel's staunchest supporters among U.S. politicians have objected to the Israeli reply. Accusing the U.S. Government of a biased attitude toward the Arab side is nothing more than nonsense designed to throw dust in the eyes, as the saying goes.

AL-AHRAM CHIEF EDITOR CALLS FOR NEW PARTY

LD241008Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Jun 78 pp 1, 9 LD

[By 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal]

[Excerpts] In his speech before the ASU Central Committee the day before yesterday, President Anwar as-Sadat discussed the implications of the past stage and the mistakes committed during it.

He did not attribute these mistakes to democracy as a principle or to the idea of setting up political parties as a means of applying this principle, nor to freedom as an umbrella for political activity.

Rather, the mistake was owing to the lack of firmness. In other words, we rushed into preparing the atmosphere for internal political activities by insuring all the freedom and democracy it needs. This was owing either to extreme sensitivity or to the desire to open a new page so that all the past mistakes would be forgotten and everyone would have the opportunity to participate in political activity with a new spirit, new consciousness and full realization of developments.

But what happened was contrary to what we expected and called for.

The New Al-Wafd Party proved that it still lives with the mentality of the past and imagines that it can put back the hands of the clock.

The grouping [Nationalist Progressive Unionist Grouping] sought from the beginning to exploit the difficult economic situation that the country is experiencing and tried to create a class struggle so that through it the grouping would achieve certain political and ideological objectives.

Under no circumstances was such foul play acceptable. Therefore, there came the time for a pause in order to answer the question asked by the masses: Where are we heading? The masses answered this question at the referendum, which clearly expressed their rejection of all elements that are seeking to exploit democracy for personal or ideological ends with total disregard for public interests.

President as-Sadat has called on the Central Committee members and all the state democratic institutions to think about and give their views on the form of political activity in the coming stage.

In my opinion the situation can no longer tolerate any interpretation or compromise. The experiment we have been going through following the establishment of parties has pointed up our mistakes, shown us our path and defined for us the method we should follow in light of what we have achieved and the mistakes we have committed.

I call for the establishment of a new party based on the principles of the 23 July and 15 May revolutions.

The 23 July Revolution came about in order to put an end to all forms of corruption that were rife before the revolution, and the 15 May Revolution came about in order to rectify the mistakes of the 23 July Revolution and lay the foundation for freedom and democracy.

The 23 July Revolution did not come only to end corruption but also to change the social structure: to eliminate feudalism and exploitation, to rid the country of the reactionary right, to protect society from the Marxist left and to back and support all nationalist forces that wish to serve Egypt and the Egyptian people and not those that want to serve a particular class or faction.

The 15 May Revolution occurred in order to protect all these achievements against the opportunists and those who are biased, as well protect the safety and security of the citizen through a sound application of democracy free from detention camps, sequestrations and an absence of the rule of law. The revolution came about in order to build a state of institutions, of the rule of law, of the dignity of the citizen and a socialist democratic regime emanating from the soil of this country.

The 23 July Revolution was a popular revolution that attracted the popular masses. Then came the 15 May Revolution in order to restore to the mother revolution all it had lost and to win supporters for it from among all those who feared or suspected it.

The establishment of a party representing both revolutions is a guarantee and a safety: it is a guarantee for the future against all mistakes and corruption of the past, and for the safety of the rule of law, a state of institutions and a sound application of democracy.

The question that remains is: How will this party come about and how will it exercise its activities?

I will try to answer tomorrow.

ENVOY LEAVES FOR SAN'A' FOR AL-GHASHMI FUNERAL

JN251605Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 June--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr's envoy left Baghdad for San'a' this afternoon to participate in the funeral of YAR President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. The envoy, Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Minister Latif Nasir Jasim, will participate in the official funeral of President al-Ghashmi, which will be held tomorrow in San'a'.

Arrives in San'a'

JN251942Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1922 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 25 June--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr's envoy, Latif Nasir Jasim, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, arrived here this evening to participate in the funeral of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, which will be held tomorrow.

In a statement upon his arrival, Jasim said that he will offer condolences on behalf of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and the Iraqi Government to the Yemeni Government and people on the death of Lt Col Ahmad al-Ghashmi. He was received at the airport by Yemeni Agriculture Minister 'Ali al-Matari, several Foreign Ministry officials and Iraqi Ambassador in San'a' Taha Yasin.

VICE CHAIRMAN, SPANISH KING HOLD MEETING

JN231143Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 23 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 June--Spanish King Juan Carlos today met with Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council. During the 90-minute meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and means to strengthen and develop them in the interests and service of the Iraqi and Spanish peoples.

The meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of the two countries in addition to 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the Spanish ambassador in Baghdad.

Saddam Husayn earlier called on King Juan Carlos at As-Salam Palace and expressed sentiments of pride concerning the visit. He stressed that the visit will help consolidate relations between the two countries. Saddam Husayn also expressed the hope that the exchange of visits among the officials of the two friendly countries will continue so as to further strengthen the pillars of cooperation between the two countries in various domains.

King Juan Carlos praised the solid relations linking the two friendly countries and expressed his happiness concerning his visit to Iraq, which enable him to see part of the civilization in the Ar-Rafidayn Valley.

Out of a sentiment of pride in the relations between the two countries, the Spanish king bestowed on Saddam Husayn the civilian meritorious medal first class. While presenting the medal, the Spanish king said: I have the honor to present you the civilian meritorious medal first class, which expresses the depth of the relations of amity between the peoples and governments of our two countries.

Before the end of his call on the Spanish king, Her Majesty Queen Sofia expressed her pride concerning the visit to Iraq and its civilization and antiquities. She also expressed admiration for the progress she saw.

In a reply speech Saddam Husayn said: The brief time you spent in our country did not give us the chance to welcome Your Majesties as we would have wished. We are happy with your visit to Baghdad, which was prompted not only by the affection of the Spanish people but also by history which links the Arabs with the Spanish people.

Juan Carlos Leaves

JN231147Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 June--Spanish King Juan Carlos, Queen Sofia and the delegation accompanying them left Baghdad this afternoon at the end of their 2-day visit to Iraq.

POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN241920Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 June--Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Emil Wojtaszek arrived here this evening at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq. He said he will hold talks with Iraqi officials for the purpose of developing mutual relations. He said these relations are developing in the service of the issues of our two countries and peoples.

Received by President

JN261052Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 26 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 June--At noon today President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received in his office at the presidential palace Emil Wojtaszek, Polish minister of foreign affairs. Wojtaszek conveyed to President al-Bakr greetings from Henryk Jablonski, chairman of the State Council of the Polish People's Republic. They also reviewed bilateral relations and the means to develop them for the benefit of the two friendly peoples. Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi and the Polish ambassador in Baghdad also attended the meeting.

Official Talks Held

JN251227Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 June--Official talks began here today between the Iraqi side led by Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs, and the Polish side led by Foreign Minister Emil Wojtaszek.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed international relations and the situation in the Arab area. They also discussed the Zionists' aggressive policy and the dangers it causes for the stability and security of the area and the world. The two parties stressed the solid relations existing between Iraq and the socialist countries. They also discussed the role played by the nonaligned movement and the need to develop the movement and have it become a constructive element.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and expressed their satisfaction with these relations, stressing the importance of developing them.

At the end of the talks, the Polish minister of foreign affairs extended an invitation to Dr Hammadi to visit Poland. The invitation was accepted and its date will be determined later.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by 'Abd al-Malik Yasin, under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; (Wissam al-Zahawi), head of the first international department of the Foreign Ministry; and a number of officials.

The talks were attended on the Polish side by Ryszard Strzelecki, under secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Maritime Economy, and Henryk Zebrowski, Polish ambassador in Baghdad.

FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 3-DAY VISIT

JN212019Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2009 GMT 21 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 June--French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges arrived here this evening at the head of a delegation on a 3-day visit to Iraq. The French minister said that his visit to Iraq confirms the strength of the friendly relations between Iraq and France and also confirms a mutual desire to consolidate these relations.

Bourges said that Iraq plays a distinguished and important role in the Middle East area. He said that France and Iraq have common viewpoints regarding many international issues, which serve the interests of world peace.

Minister Bourges and the delegation accompanying him were received by Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister, several senior military officials and the French ambassador in Baghdad.

Holds Talks

JN221326Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 22 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 June--Staff Air Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, minister of defense and member of the Revolution Command Council, held a meeting here today with French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges during which the sides discussed the friendly ties between the two countries and the means of developing them.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by the staff general, the chief of staff and a number of officers of the armed forces, and on the French side by the under secretary of the Ministry of Defense and his assistant, several senior officers of the French Army and the French ambassador in Baghdad. During the meeting the two sides stressed the need to continue the meetings and visits between them. Minister Yvon Bourges arrived in Baghdad last night.

Meets Saddam Husayn

JN221717Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 June--Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, received here this evening French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges. During the meeting, which was attended by Staff Gen Pilo 'Adnan Khayrallah, RCC member and defense minister, they reviewed bilateral relations in the interests of the two peoples.

Concludes Visit

JN250922Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 June--Yvon Bourges, French minister of defense, left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 4-day official visit to Iraq. During his visit, Bourges was received by Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman. He also met with Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, minister of defense and RCC member, and 'Adnan Husayn, minister of planning and RCC member. In a press statement, the French minister described his visit to Iraq as very fruitful. He expressed the hope that it will contribute to strengthening Iraqi-French relations. He added that the discussions he held with Iraqi officials dealt with bilateral relations and the means to develop them in various fields.

MOURNING PERIOD FOR YAR PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED

NC261040Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Jun 78 NC

[Text] The prime minister's office has issued the following notice: In mourning for the late YAR president, Lt Col Ahmad al-Ghashmi, flags will be lowered over buildings of official departments and public institutions for 3 days, effective today.

Also in mourning for President al-Ghashmi, the programs of the Lebanese broadcasting services will be confined to Koran recitals, news and spoken material.

CABINET ASKS ARMY TO HELP RESTORE SOVEREIGNTY IN SOUTH

NC231207Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Concerning the practical steps for implementing what was stated in the president's message, particularly on effectively tackling the security situation, the cabinet held a special session yesterday evening preceeded by an extended security meeting. The cabinet in its session charged the military with drawing up a security plan. The plan calls for the participation of units of the internal security forces and the Lebanese Army in addition to the Arab deterrent forces. The army was also charged with giving assistance to certain areas in order to consolidate security and stability in all areas of Lebanon, particularly regarding the restoration of legal authority and Lebanese sovereignty in the south.

During the coming days a number of consultations and meetings will be held on the military level aimed at putting the finishing touches to the security plan and implementing it.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS U.S. AMBASSADOR, ANSWERS QUESTIONS

NC231600Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Minister Butrus held a meeting today with U.S. Ambassador in Lebanon Richard Parker. Following the meeting, Parker said: I came to meet Minister Butrus after having been absent for 6 weeks. We discussed the current situation and reviewed the situation in the south and the developments that have taken place there. He added that he had conveyed an oral message from the U.S. secretary of state to the foreign and expatriates minister.

Asked whether the U.S. secretary of state will visit Beirut in the framework of his forthcoming visit to the region, he replied: I have nothing conclusive to say on this subject. Anything is possible.

Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus said: The ambassador's visit dealt with the affairs which we are at present continuously tackling with the ambassador.

Asked about new developments in the situation in the south, Minister Butrus said: I believe that, after having met with the political adviser of the UNIFIL forces in Lebanon and as a result of my meetings with certain ambassadors today, I can say that the impression I received during the past 2 days, even though I did not officially confirm it, is that progress has been made concerning the situation in the south. This trend is being confirmed more and more, in spite of difficulties. There is a belief at the United Nations that the situation is progressing positively. Naturally, contacts are proceeding intensively and continuously in order to consolidate the situation.

Asked whether what was agreed upon in Latakia is being implemented at present, Minister Butrus replied: The subject of Latakia deals with a specific aspect of the problem. The problems we are dealing with at present are different from that of Latakia, because the subject of Latakia in itself is not a subject for argument. Certain events have occurred which must be given consideration in order to enable us to implement what was agreed upon. This is the political and diplomatic role which we are playing at present.

BUTRUS MEETS WITH SARKIS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC241152Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jun 78 NC

[Text] At a working meeting he held with Fu'ad Butrus, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign and expatriates affairs and defense, this morning, President Ilyas Sarkis reviewed the current general situation in light of developments. After the 70-minute meeting, Minister Butrus made a statement in which he said that he had briefed President Sarkis on the results of the diplomatic moves in light of the contacts he held yesterday. Minister Butrus added that he had received instructions from the president in this respect.

Minister Butrus was asked: Is there anything new concerning the situation in the south? He answered: Up to this moment, there is nothing new.

The foreign minister was asked his opinion of the statement by the French foreign minister that his government would consider the status of the French contingent of the UNIFIL next September and consider whether it would withdraw this contingent. The foreign minister answered: The French foreign minister has not spoken of withdrawing the French unit but he has talked about whether the mandate of this contingent would be renewed when it expires. Minister Butrus added: I am aware of the statement. I have no comment to make on it now, at least until I receive all the necessary facts. At present I prefer not to comment on this statement. But I look at things as I wish and see that there is no need to discuss them.

PRESIDENT SARKIS MEETS U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC241325Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jun 78 NC

[Text] This morning His Excellency President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis reviewed the general situation in Lebanon and the area with U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Richard Parker.

After the meeting, Ambassador Parker stated: I was away for a long time. I met with President Sarkis today so that we could discuss the situation in the country. We made a large-scale review. Asked his opinion about the situation in the south and whether there was an improvement, he answered: I have no comment to make on the situation in the south.

The U.S. ambassador said he conveyed an oral message from the Washington government to President Sarkis.

WALDHEIM SPECIAL ENVOY JOHN JONAH ARRIVES IN BEIRUT

NC251730Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Jun 78 NC

[Text] John Jonah, envoy of UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim, arrived in Beirut at 1800 today. Johan is a director for special political affairs in the office of the UN secretary general.

Jonah was met at the airport by the UNIFIL commander, General Erskine; the UN forces political adviser, (Jean Claud Ermine); Samir Sanbar and representatives of the Lebanese Defense Ministry.

It has been learned from UN sources that Jonah will visit the south tomorrow to meet with the officials in An-Naqurah headquarters. When he returns to Beirut, he will meet with Lebanese officials. Jonah is scheduled to submit a report to the UN secretary general this week.

BAGHDAD VOP SAYS JOINT FORCES CLASH WITH UNIFIL IN SOUTH

JN231855Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Reports from southern Lebanon today say that a clash took place yesterday between the joint forces of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the UNIFIL deterrent forces in the town of Rashayya al-Fukhkhar in Al-'Urqub area. The reports say that the clash, in which various kinds of machineguns were used, took place when elements of the Norwegian unit operating within UNIFIL tried to prevent a unit of our revolutionaries from taking up positions in the Rashayya al-Fukhkhar area. Two soldiers of the Norwegian unit were taken prisoner. During the clash our revolutionaries managed to capture a Norwegian military truck and capture two members of the UNIFIL deterrent forces.

Reports say that a meeting was held yesterday evening in the town of Kawkabah between 'Arafat command representatives and UNIFIL. At the meeting they agreed to stop the clashes and release those detained.

VOICE OF LEBANON: FRENCH UN UNIT CLASHES WITH PALESTINIANS

NC240644Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 24 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Reports from southern Lebanon indicate that clashes broke out between a French UN unit in Yatar and a number of armed Palestinians who infiltrated into the area. The UN unit used medium and light caliber arms while the infiltrators fired RPG rockets to cover their withdrawal toward the coast.

The UN forces yesterday expanded their area of responsibility when an Irish unit entered At-Tiri and an Iranian unit set up a position overlooking the valleys and hills around the town. The Irish force detonated 100 cluster bombs. The citizens said that fragmentation bombs had been planted in the town and that one of these exploded, severing the hand of a 13-year-old boy. The detonation of bombs was supervised by senior Irish officers who were told of the bombs by village boys.

The town of Shab'a was subjected yesterday to heavy machinegun fire by the Israeli forces stationed in (Tallat Saddam).

INA: RIGHTIST FORCES SET UP TRAINING CAMPS IN SOUTH

JN240844Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 Jun--Reports from southern Lebanon today indicated that the rightist forces have set up new training camps in a number of southern areas. The reports added that Zionist officers are supervising these camps.

The INA correspondent in the south reports that the most significant camps have been set up in 'Ayn Ibil and Bint Jubayl, which are under the control of the rightist forces. The correspondent adds that these forces have also installed barbed wire around these camps as well as around the town of Bint Jubayl.

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LEBANON

BAGHDAD RADIO ON SITUATION IN SOUTH

JN251633Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Southern Lebanon--Enemy naval boats continued their provocative activities all along the coast between the cities of Sidon and Tyre in southern Lebanon. Enemy planes flew over Lebanese airspace as the enemy boats were roaming Lebanese regional waters.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that the fishermen did not carry out their daily activities because of fear of shelling by enemy forces in the coastal area.

Meanwhile, the rightist forces in southern Lebanon opened fire on (?Bayt Sahun) town in the central sector following an attempt by a UNIFIL patrol to enter the town last night.

Reports received from southern Lebanon say that the rightist forces are setting up checkpoints in most areas under their control to inspect the identity cards of those returning to their villages. The reports add that the rightwing forces continue their aggression and provocations against the citizens.

Arrivals from the border areas said that they saw dozens of vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition entering 'Ayn Ibil town from occupied Palestine to support the rightwing elements.

An Irish UNIFIL unit came under fire from unknown persons yesterday on the main road leading to the town of Bint Jubayl in the central sector. It will be recalled that the Irish UNIFIL force yesterday entered this town, which is under the control of the rightwing forces.

VOICE OF LEBANON: IRAQI EMBASSY CAR FIRED AT IN BEIRUT

NC231211Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 23 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Well-informed quarters in the western sector of Beirut have said that on the night of 21-22 June fire was opened on an Iraqi Embassy car by unidentified persons in a Peugeot.

Some sources have linked this incident with the assassination of 'Ali Yasin, the head of the PLO office in Kuwait. Palestinian quarters had accused Iraqi elements of assassinating Yasin.

Elements associated with Abu Dawud, a Fatah leader who is in opposition to 'Arafat's wing, have circulated leaflets in Jawayya in southern Lebanon demanding the release of six persons who were arrested by Fatah during recent clashes. Six others were executed at the time.

Observers have noticed intensive activities by communist parties at foreign and regional levels as well as contacts with some communist capitals.

AL-ASAD SENDS CONDOLENCES TO YAR CHAIRMAN

JN251237Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of condolences to Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the YAR Presidential Council, on the death of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. The text of the cable is as follows:

With extreme pain and sorrow, we learned about the crime which led to the death of the late Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, YAR president. While expressing our condolences to you and the YAR Government, we ask God to have mercy on the soul of the bereaved and to grant patience and consolation to his family.

CPSU DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS FOR TALKS

JN231309Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At noon today a CPSU delegation headed by Comrade Ivanovich Stukalin, member of the Central Committee [as heard], arrived in Damascus for a 1-week visit to Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

On arrival at Damascus International Airport, the delegation was welcomed by Comrade Mit'ib Shanan, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and head of the Syrian-Soviet Friendship Society, and a number of party members. During their visit, the members of the delegation will hold party and political talks with a Ba'th Party delegation headed by Comrade Shanan. The delegation will also meet with a number of party and state officials. The CPSU delegation will also visit a number of provinces to see the progress achieved under the Ba'th Party leadership.

A SANA correspondent has learned that the talks will end with the signing of a cooperation agreement between the two parties. In a statement to the SANA correspondent, the head of the CPSU delegation expressed happiness over his visit to Syria and conveyed the Soviet people's and the CPSU leadership's greetings to the Syrian people and Ba'th Party leadership. He said: Our visit to friendly Syria is aimed at deepening and developing relations between the two parties in the two friendly countries in the interests of the Syrian and Soviet peoples.

Comrade Ivanovich also praised the Syrian people's struggle under the leadership of the Ba'th Party and the Nationalist Progressive Front against imperialism and Zionism. He also praised the achievements in the various economic, social and cultural domains. Comrade Ivanovich reaffirmed his country's support for the Arab people's struggle to recover their usurped rights and to liberate the occupied Arab territories.

Talks Begin

JN232140Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Jun 78 JN

[Text] A round of talks was held in the Ba'th Party National Command building today between a delegation from the Ba'th Party, headed by Comrade Mit'ib Shanan, Ba'th Party Regional Command member, chief of the Regional Workers Bureau and president of the Syrian-Soviet Friendship Society; and the CPSU delegation, headed by Ivanovich Stukalin, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee [as heard] of the Council of Ministers.

The talks dealt with the strong relations between the two parties. These relations are based on joint themes of struggle against imperialism and Zionism and for mutual goals. The talks also dealt with the means to strengthen these relations in the interests of the two countries and their peoples, and the causes of freedom, progress and the building of socialism in the world. The two sides reviewed the explosive situation in the Middle East. This situation is the result of the continued Israeli policy of aggression and its refusal to heed demands for just peace, which must be based on complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their rights to return and decide their future on their own soil.

SOVIET NAVAL OFFICER, DELEGATION RECEIVED

JN232145Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Jun 78 JN

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and defense minister, received in his office this evening Vice Admiral Samoylov, first deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador and the Soviet military attache in Damascus.

SYRIA, HUNGARY CONDEMN EGYPTIAN POLICY

JN242140Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Syria and Hungary today condemned the capitulatory policy of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. A joint statement issued today at the conclusion of the visit by the Syrian peace delegation to Hungary under Comrade George Saddiqni condemned Israel's expansionist policy in the Arab territories and demanded its withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

BA'ATH LEADER RECEIVES ITALIAN CP DELEGATION

JN252044Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'ath Party, today received the delegation of the Italian Communist Party under Mr [name indistinct], member of the Central Committee and secretary of the party in Emilia Romagna. The delegation is currently visiting Syria at the invitation of the National Command of the Ba'ath Party. After welcoming the delegation, Comrade al-Ahmar spoke on the relations of friendship and cooperation binding the two parties and the common desire to develop this cooperation in the interest of the two parties and the two countries. Al-Ahmar spoke on the achievements of the Ba'ath Party under President Hafiz al-Asad on all levels.

Al-Ahmar exchanged viewpoints with the delegation on the situation in the Arab region and the current developments. Al-Ahmar affirmed Syria's determination under the leadership of the party and its general secretary, Hafiz al-Asad, to continue the struggle to achieve just peace based on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of Palestinian rights. The views of the two sides were identical on the principles of just peace and on Israel's aggressive policy as the main obstacle on the road to this peace. They also had the same views on As-Sadat's line of capitulation, which dealt the Arab struggle irreparable harm and created new obstacles to peace in the region. The two parties affirmed their solidarity in facing all the imperialist and Zionist plots in the region and expressed their satisfaction with the developing relations between their two countries. They voiced their support for the popular struggles and freedom movements and for world peace.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE SENDS MESSAGES TO YAR, PDRY

LD260536Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Jun 78 LD

[Text] President of the Republic and Chairman of the Council of the Revolution Houari Boumediene has addressed the following cable of condolences to Al-Qadi 'abd al-Karim al-Arashi, chairman of the YAR Presidential Council:

We learned with great sorrow and regret of the assassination of President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, YAR president and commander in chief of the armed forces. We were deeply affected by the news because of the firm fraternal ties that link us with the late president and because of the noble character and sincere feelings toward the common causes of our destiny we sensed in him when we visited your fraternal country recently.

While sharing your sorrow and grief over the loss of the late Al-Ghashmi, we denounce all the hidden hands that seek to sow the seeds of discord in the historic relations between San'a' and Aden. We are confident that wisdom and reason will prevail over all emotions in the face of this tragedy so as to preserve the old and [word indistinct] heritage and the good common future shared by the two fraternal countries.

Algeria, in view of the sincere love and affection it has for the Yemeni people in their northern and southern parts and while sharing your pain in this new tribulation, recalls all the unbreakable ties between the two Yemens. In these painful circumstances, we pray to God to protect your country from any harm and to enable you to overcome this difficult circumstance so as to continue the work of building up Yemen and realizing its unity and progress and the prosperity of its people. We pray to God to have mercy on the soul of the deceased.

President Hourri Boumediene also addressed the following cable to PDRY President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali:

We have followed with great interest all the news regarding the circumstances of the assassination of President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. In view of the suspicious insinuations these have contained, we deem it our duty on this occasion to condemn all the base fingers that are working in the interests of imperialism and seeking to deal a blow to Arab relations even inside the one homeland. We are confident that your wisdom and vigilance will help to refute all the accusations that have as their target the unity of the Yemeni people in their northern and southern parts, and consequently the creation of more division in the Arab nation--east and west.

Since the implementation of the liquidationist policy in tackling the causes of destiny of the Arab nation and since the multiplicity of the plots that are woven here and there against the steadfastness of the Arab peoples, it has become obvious that some countries, because of their concern for their independence and nonalignment, have more than others become a target of threats, pressure and accusations which contradict not only international political norms but above all Arab cultural values.

On this occasion we address to you a sincere fraternal appeal that stems from the firm solidarity of our two revolutions to cooperate with your brothers in the north so that the facts are crystallized, the plotters are exposed and all plots that are woven against the two Yemens, and through them against the Arab nation, are foiled. May God guide your steps for the good of the Arab nation, its dignity and its unity.

YAR, PDYR AMBASSADORS RECEIVED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY

LD231000Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 26 Jun 78 LD

[Text] It has been reported that the ambassadors of the two Yemens in Algiers were received, one after the other, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday afternoon. During these meetings, the situation in the area following the painful event which is touching the Arab nation's feelings was examined.

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD232332Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca arrived in Algiers this evening carrying a personal message from Cuban President Fidel Castro to President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and chairman of the Revolution Council.

The Cuban foreign minister, who is accompanied by an important delegation, was welcomed on arrival at Ad-Dar el-Bayda' international airport by Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Revolution Council and foreign minister; Director General of Political Affairs 'Abd al-Qadir Busalham; Director of the Latin American Department Mu'ayzah; Director of Protocol at the Foreign Ministry Mustafa Bu'akkaz; and the Cuban ambassador to Algeria.

Meets With Boumediene

LD241730Y Algiers APS in French 1400 GMT 24 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, APS 23--President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and president of the Council of the Revolution, received at the presidential offices this morning Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban minister of foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him.

Mr Malmierca handed to President Boumediene a message from General Fidel Castro.

Present at the meeting were Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and minister of foreign affairs, and the Cuban ambassador to Algiers.

MAURITANIA

SOVIET MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS ON FISHING

LD232212Y Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 23 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Nouakchott, MAP--Aleksandr Ishkov, Soviet minister of industry and fishing, arrived in Nouakchott on Thursday for a 4-day visit to Mauritania.

During his visit to Mauritania Mr Ishkov will have talks with President Moktar Ould Daddah. He will also have a working meeting with a Mauritanian delegation led by Abdallah Ould Ismael, Mauritanian minister of industry, fishing and merchant marine, with a view to renewing the fishing agreement signed between the two countries.

SUDAN

VICE PRESIDENT SENDS CONDOLENCES TO YAR

JN250848Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 25 June--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, vice president and foreign minister, yesterday sent a cable of condolences to YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj on the death of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, YAR president and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Numayri Condolences

JN250849Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 0813 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 25 June--President Numayri yesterday sent a cable of condolences to Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the YAR Presidential Council, on the death of President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi.

MOROCCO'S FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD231742Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Excerpt] Mr Mohamed Boucetta, Moroccan foreign minister, arrived at Khartoum airport last night.

His excellency told the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY that his visit follows the strengthening of the fraternal relations binding the two countries [words indistinct] invitation extended by Mr ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and foreign minister of Sudan.

He said: I am carrying greetings from His Majesty King Hassan II to Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, the Sudanese leader and president, and sentiments of brotherhood and solidarity (?between the Sudanese and Moroccan peoples). He added that his visit came within the framework of cooperation between the two countries in the cultural, commercial and economic fields, and especially in the field of aviation and in the coordination of actions to confront the challenges that face the Continent of Africa (?and the Arab nations) and to cooperate in finding successful solutions for them. His excellency praised the role being played by President Numayri in consolidating Arab solidarity, aimed at repulsing Zionist aggression and restoring the rights of the Palestinian people.

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR

JN251314Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 25 June--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, vice president and foreign minister, received the Soviet ambassador this morning. During the meeting, the Soviet ambassador conveyed a verbal message from the Soviet leaders to President Ja'far Numayri on the Soviet stand on the recent events in Africa, especially the situation in Zaire.

INTERIOR MINISTER VIEWS PROBLEM OF AFRICAN REFUGEES

LD210940Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Mr 'Abd al-Wahhab Ibrahim, minister of interior and public security, made the following speech on the occasion of the fourth commemoration of Refugees Day:

[Ibrahim--begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Honorable citizens, may peace and God's mercy be upon you. I greet you on this day--the day of the refugees in Africa--which we observe every year to confirm our commitment to the OAU resolutions and our solidarity with the sisterly governments of Africa, with which we are alined in the search for African solutions to the problems of our (?developing) continent.

This year our observance of African Refugees Day comes at a time when we are committed more firmly than ever to the humanitarian principles which we adopted for dealing with the problems of refugees. This is because we have shifted from the phase of recognizing these Principles to the phase of translating them into practical policies which yield good results and which will guarantee good humanitarian conditions for our brothers who have come to us as refugees. So that they might continue to have hope, we are resolved to overcome all difficulties and help them return to their homelands when this becomes possible.

Fellow countrymen: There are many refugees who left their independent homelands because of internal problems. Sudan shelters large numbers of them. However, our acceptance of refugees is not only a moral commitment devolving on us through our membership in the African and world [word indistinct], but it is also a commitment imposed by our geographical position. While we house these refugees, we endeavor to train them to rely on themselves so that they might develop their capabilities in readiness for their return to their homelands.

Through our experience, we have realized that fighting has never been a solution to differences between brothers; on the contrary, it has been a step into the abyss of backwardness and an invitation to those with alien interests and designs to interfere. On the basis of our experiences, we are trying to insure that our brothers solve their differences in a peaceful way. Nor do we spare any effort to reconcile those who are fighting one another; we do so in the interest of their homelands and of the African Continent.

The initiatives being taken by leader President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri to reconcile steps in this regard. We say this because the problem of Africa today is a problem of economic and social backwardness, and there must be solidarity for the sake of construction and development.

Fellow countrymen: The convening of the African summit conference in Khartoum faces us with greater responsibilities toward our continent. One of the biggest problems of our continent is the problem of refugees. Since leader President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri will assume the chairmanship of the OAU next year, God willing, Sudan is required more than at any time in the past to remain, as it always has been, loyal to the principles of African unity and an element of accord, harmony and peace.

We in the Ministry of Interior, by virtue of our responsibility toward them, will continue to give the refugees the care and attention guaranteed them by international law and charters and will continue to cooperate with their homelands for the sake of a peaceful and just solution to their problems whenever the signs of [words indistinct].

Fellow countrymen: I greet you once again. Glory, freedom and peace to Africa and its struggling peoples. Peace and God's mercy be upon you. [end recording]

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I S R A E L

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CABINET REJECTS AS-SADAT'S LATEST PROPOSALS

NC251224Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1133 GMT 25 Jun 78 NC

[Text] We now go to the prime minister's office to hear the cabinet's decision from the cabinet secretary.

Now, the cabinet decision is ready and will be read by the Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or:

According to Cairo Radio, Egypt's President Mr as-Sadat has once again proposed that Israel transfer Judaea and Samaria to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt, as a prior condition to starting negotiations on what he calls Israel's security problems.

Israel totally rejects these proposals of President as-Sadat. Israel has proposed holding negotiations without any prior conditions concerning the establishment of peace. Israel has also proposed to grant administrative autonomy to Judaea, Samaria and Gaza as part of the peace treaties on which free negotiations should be conducted by the parties. This has been the government's statement.

[Correspondent] The cabinet secretary has stated that he will not answer any questions. Meanwhile, the prime minister has also left his office, smiling--he did not want to answer any questions. He just smiled to all the journalists, and asked the cabinet secretary whether he will be reading the cabinet statement to the journalists. When he received an affirmative answer, he said: I have nothing to add. He then entered his car and left for home.

WEIZMAN ACCUSATIONS AGAINST DAYAN DISCUSSED IN CABINET

TA251814Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Jun 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpt] The government totally rejects Egypt's proposals that Israel hand over Judaea and Samaria to Jordan and the Gaza District to Egypt as a precondition to the negotiations on Israel's security problems. Israel proposed holding negotiations without preconditions on peace and on implementing the administrative autonomy in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. This is the short and firm statement which was made public at noon at the end of the cabinet session. Further details about the session were learned by our political correspondent Shalom Qital. If and to what extent was the Weizman affair discussed? [begin recording]

[Qital] The 'Ezer Weizman affair was background music at the cabinet's session today. The issue was not raised in all its dimensions in the discussions around the cabinet table. Before and after the session much was said about 'Ezer Weizman, his expressions and the conclusions that should be drawn. During the session there was only one instance when the differences were mentioned: Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan came equipped with secret documents, with the aim of refuting claims that appeared in the weekend issue of one of the newspapers, claims made by the defense minister's associates that in a meeting with an Egyptian representative prior to As-Sadat's arrival Moshe Dayan promised that Israel was prepared to return to Egypt all of the Sinai, including the airfields. All this before As-Sadat's visit. With the help of the documents, Dayan proved that these things were untrue. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman commenting about these things in the cabinet said: Indeed, before As-Sadat's visit Dayan did not promise the Sinai, but after the visit, in another meeting with that Egyptian element, he definitely did promise it. What is even worse, Weizman said, Dayan did so without consulting the defense authorities, without consulting the defense minister or the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs.

Other things concerning the Weizman affair were not said during the cabinet session, and after it only soothing words were exchanged between ministers who met with each other and with Prime Minister Menahem Begin today, including ministers from the Liberal Party and MAFDAL. Weizman himself met the prime minister for 10 minutes this morning. They did not mention the affair; they discussed matters pertaining to their jobs.

WEIZMAN ANGERED BY DAYAN 'CONCESSION' IN SINAI

TA231525Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Jun 78 pp 13, 32 TA

[Dov Goldstein article]

[Excerpts] The dispute between Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, which became more severe this week and which, perhaps, has not ended, revolves around the question of whether one should believe in the chance for a dialog in the wake of As-Sadat's initiative and act in a manner befitting such a belief or continue to stand by the "good" old assumption that the Arabs do not want peace and all they want is to destroy us. Weizman believes in the chance for dialog and thinks that this is a historical chance for Israel, the region and the world. Since he fears that this historic moment will be missed because of the prime minister's and foreign minister's shortsightedness and their imprisonment in old beliefs he has no intention of shutting up and taking things lying down. He will fight.

When did 'Ezer Weizman begin to get the uncomfortable feeling that Begin and Dayan do not intend to make him a full participant in political decisions as should be the case out of consideration for the defense minister's status and the personal weight that he carries in the government? His confidants can put their finger on the turning point: "It is said that this happened when the foreign minister met, prior to As-Sadat's arrival in Israel, with a senior Egyptian personality and "sold" all of Sinai to Egypt. When Weizman learned that Dayan had, apparently with Begin's agreement or on his initiative, conceded the military airfields in Sinai at that meeting he was shocked. At first he found it hard to believe. When there was no more doubt that Dayan had, in fact, conceded the airfields Weizman cried out: Without consulting the defense minister? Without hearing the opinion of the military-defense establishment?

In no past government has such a thing happened. Had this happened when Dayan was defense minister in the Alignment government he would have turned the world upside down. Can one conduct negotiations on Israel's behalf without military-defense issues being considered? Can a proposal of this nature be made without hearing the view of the defense minister?"

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES DAYAN CONCEDED SINAI

TA231536Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 23 Jun 78 TA

[Text] The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has completely denied a report that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan promised, at a meeting he held with an Egyptian personality before President as-Sadat's visit to Israel, that Israel would make concessions in Sinai and, in this context, would concede the airfields. The reference is to an article in MA'ARIV today quoting remarks made by people close to the defense minister. The Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized that the story is imaginary and has no basis.

JUSTICE MINISTER ON BEGIN'S PEACE MOVES, CABINET

TA230953Y Jerusalem POST in English 23 Jun 78 p 5 TA

[David Landau report]

[Text] Israel is walking a tightrope, says Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir. And it has no option but to keep walking, taking care not to be thrown off balance by its yearning for peace on the one side or the difficulties in obtaining it on the other.

What Tamir does not say, but what emerged graphically from a conversation with him this week, is that he himself is walking a political tightrope of his own, and one false step, or an unfortunate wind, could cast him down from the lofty heights of cabinet office to which he ascended by a winding and lengthy path.

Tamir applies the persuasive powers of the brilliant trial lawyer he has to prove that the two tightropes run parallel towards the most noble and necessary national goals.

As part of his case, he lavishes praise upon Premier Menahem Begin for his moderation. Begin's close confidants say such praise has yet to be reciprocated. But Tamir is much too experienced and determined a politician to be deterred merely by the fact of 12 years of animosity between the two men.

The national tightrope, says Tamir, spans two pitfalls: delusion and despondency.

"We must never forget whom we're dealing with. I remember as a little boy of six, when my father was director of a hospital in Jerusalem, how they brought in the victims of the Hebron Yeshiva massacre whose heads had been grilled over primus stoves."

Tamir urges, too, that we "remember who As-Sadat is, how he behaved during World War II." He recalls a statement by General al-Jamasi after the Yom Kippur war, saying that the next time Egypt duped Israel the results would be even more devastating for the Israelis.

Yet at the same time Tamir stresses that we must believe in peace--and be prepared to make concessions to achieve it. This has been his credo ever since the Yom Kippur war, and he took his Free Center Party out of the Likud because he felt Begin was not moving with the times, not adjusting himself to the need to negotiate.

Now, however, partly because of the DMC's participation in the cabinet, Israel under Begin is moving basically in the right direction. The justice minister takes a long view of Sunday's cabinet split, when he and three other DMC men and 'Ezer Weizman found themselves pitted against a solid phalanx marshalled by Begin in the debate over the U.S. questionnaire. In the first place, says Tamir, the moderate minority significantly influenced the decision eventually reached by the majority. The response proposed by the premier, and carried by the majority, was considerably more forthcoming than the original hard-line reply proposed the week before by Hayyim Landau. It represented another shift from the rigid intransigence of the old Begin, toward a measure of pragmatism. Not a sufficient amount for Tamir's tastes--that is why he and his colleagues opposed the cabinet decision; but a significant swing nevertheless.

Six months ago, Begin's peace plan said its principles "may be reviewed" in five years' time. This was subsequently changed to "will be reviewed." And now the cabinet has expressed its readiness to "consider and agree upon the nature of future relations between the parties" five years hence.

"Who would have thought a year ago that Menahem Begin would ever put his name to such a document?" Tamir asks. "And let us not forget his concession of virtually the whole of Sinai. I myself had doubts about the tactical wisdom of that move, but I heartily endorsed the underlying philosophy of a bold breakthrough towards peace."

Secondly, the dissent of the cabinet minority, with the concomitant world-wide publicity it received, will in time have a further moderating effect on the government's policy, Tamir believes.

Hence the ex post facto vindication of the DMC's decision to join the Begin government, and hence the present and future justification for its remaining there.

Tamir asserts, too, that the DMC's presence has resulted in a de facto diminution of settlement activity in the course of the peace negotiations.

He recalls, however, apropos of Begin's moderation, that even 32 years ago the then IZL [Irgun Zva, Leumi] leader pledged to desist from armed struggle against the British if only Bevin would issue the 100,000 certificates the Yishuv was pleading for. "It is the same Begin today, who is moving painfully away from 50 years of commitment," he points out.

Throughout history, Tamir continues, it has been strong and steadfast governments that have made peace, not weak and conciliatory ones. Therefore the need, "in the best interests of the state," to keep Begin's parliamentary base secure. Without the DMC, the government would have only 62 Knesset members behind it, and would be dangerously weakened.

Labor, moreover, is no alternative--nor will it be for a long time. "Now that I am here, right at the center of the government, I am more convinced than ever of the need Israel had last year for a change at the top. I say this even though in this particular ministry my Labor predecessor was a good and relatively successful minister."

After each of these arguments in favor of the DMC staying in, Tamir added a refrain: "But not at any price." He did not specify what price would be too high for him, and he seemed to put little faith in the 'Amit document, which the DMC recently adopted as the guideline for its continued participation in the coalition. "What is important in politics is practical experience, not formulations," he observed.

There was no reference, not even a veiled one, to the current reports and rumors that Tamir is seeking to make his peace with Herut, and with Begin, so that he can switch back into the Likud if the DMC breaks up.

Indeed, speaking with Tamir one would never even guess that the spectre of a split looms over the DMC, and that next week's internal elections for the DMC's council will be decisive in the struggle between the "leadership," of which Tamir is a prominent member, and the "opposition" which is centered around 'Amit, Rubinstein and Shinui doves.

He asserts that all DMC members are "basically united around the platform." The splits in his party are no deeper or wider than those in other parties at this time of heart-searching, he insists. But, because of a lack of shared political roots and experiences, some DMC men are less adept at papering over the cracks in the party's facade than are the more veteran politicians.

His abstention in the Knesset vote over the cabinet's replies to the U.S., he says, was an act of conscience--not a reluctant acceptance, as a DMC minister, of the faction's majority decision. Five DMC Knesset members, including Tamir's close allies 'Aqiva No' and Asaf Yaguri, refused to accept that decision and walked out of the chamber rather than abstain. But Tamir gives no indication that he was with the five at heart; nor does he refer, even obliquely, to the growing speculation that the five are already actively preparing for a split in the party and plan to join the Likud, with Yadin and Tamir at their helm.

He talks, argues, persuades, with all the great eloquence and cogency at his command. Tiptoeing around whatever is uncomfortable for him to dwell on, emphasizing whatever he believes supports his contentions, Tamir makes the best possible case, in the finest forensic tradition.

Listening to him, being cajoled and convinced by him, one cannot but take away the impression that even if he does slip off his individual tightrope, Shemu'el Tamir will land on his feet.

MINISTER HOROWITZ SUGGESTS WEIZMAN RESIGN FROM POST

TA241930Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1847 GMT 24 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Minister Yig'al Horowitz says that the defense minister should resign if he does not accept the cabinet's position regarding the answers to the U.S. questions. Minister Horowitz thus reacted to interviews given at the end of the week by 'Ezer Weizman to the media. The minister told political correspondent Elimelekh Ram that he did not understand how the defense minister's position and his being a member of the cabinet go together.

The chairman of the Herut Movement center, MK Moshe Arens, also said tonight that in his opinion the defense minister could continue his job only if he adheres to the cabinet's decisions and policy. MK Arens told correspondent Dan Raviv that in his opinion Minister Weizman has not yet fulfilled this condition.

Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich, on the other hand, does not see anything special in the defense minister's words. Our correspondent says that the ministers who object to the expulsion of Weizman from the cabinet claim that his resignation will of necessity bring about the disintegration of the cabinet.

Minister Weizman refused to comment on what Minister Horowitz said and said that he did not intend to resign.

In the Herut Movement, too, there is agitation against the background of Weizman's words. The movement's center is to convene in a week and the proposal will probably be raised there to warn ministers against diverting from the position accepted by the Herut Movement on the issues of peace and security.

NRP OPPOSES HOROWITZ' DEMAND FOR WEIZMAN TO RESIGN

TA251332Y Jerusalem POST in English 25 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] Commerce Minister Yig'al Horowitz is seeking the ouster of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman from the cabinet. But the National Religious Party has warned Premier Begin that it will not tolerate Weizman's removal.

"A cabinet without Weizman is entirely different from one with him," NRP circles told the Jerusalem POST last night. They said they had made it clear that if Weizman went so might they.

The NRP's departure would mean the collapse of the Begin government, even should Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir steer his five supporters inside the Democratic Movement for Change back into the Likud.

Reports from inside La'am, the junior Likud faction, say its leader, Commerce, Industry and Tourism Minister Yig'al Horowitz, is seeking Weizman's removal. It is unclear whether Horowitz will make his move at today's cabinet meeting, but he is seen likely to move at Monday's Likud Knesset faction meeting.

Horowitz is basing his attack against Weizman on the minister's outburst at last Sunday's cabinet meeting when he found himself isolated over the voting on the replies to the U.S. questions. Weizman has since formally denied, through the cabinet secretary, that he called the prime minister and Foreign Minister Dayan "liars." However, he has not denied saying "I am going to prepare the army for war" as he stomped out of the cabinet room.

The defence minister's supporters charge that Horowitz is acting on Dayan's behalf.

A similar demand for action against Weizman has been raised in Herut, reportedly from Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon. And Michael Dekel MK has tabled a formal motion censuring Weizman to come up at the Herut Central Committee session set for July second. It has now been put off due to U.S. Vice-President Mondale's visit.

It is learned that, following the scene at last Sunday's meeting, there was a concerted move to oust the defence minister, in which Dayan, Sharon and some of Begin's close supporters reportedly took part.

However, it is understood that the NRP cabinet ministers--Burg, Hammer and Abu Hazera--have resolved to block the anti-Weizman design.

The NRP position was spelled out to the Jerusalem POST last night by its Knesset faction chairman, Dr Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, who said his party would strongly resist any anti-Weizman move. "We wish to make it clear that this is not just an internal matter of Herut and the Likud alone, but concerns us too, for it affects the very performance of the government. It is of no less vital interest to the NRP than to the Likud," Ben-Me'ir stressed.

POST: BEGIN HAS NO WISH TO OUST WEIZMAN

TA251312Y Jerusalem POST in English 25 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau]

[Excerpts] Premier Menahem Begin does not want to bring about Defence Minister Weizman's resignation, according to sources close to the premier. The sources noted that there is mounting criticism of Weizman within the Likud for his tough criticism of government policy. But they said that, following the defence minister's denial last week of a particularly sharp attack on Begin and Dayan attributed to him by DAVAR, Begin hoped the entire episode would fade quietly away.

Weizman's denial, the sources said, was "a political fact." It represented a measure of readiness on his part to accept Begin's leadership, even though he did not agree with the decision of last Sunday on how to reply to the U.S. questions on the future of the West Bank.

The sources spoke to the POST last night, following Commerce Minister Yig'al Horowitz's (Likud-La'am) call for measures against Weizman.

The sources seemed to hint that Begin would not be averse to a sharp rebuke for Weizman administered by his Herut Party or by the Likud as a whole. But the premier would not want the matter to proceed any further than that, and lead to Weizman's resignation.

Weizman himself apparently regrets some of the coarse phraseology he employed during last week in his semi-public attacks on the government's policy and especially on Foreign Minister Dayan.

But he plainly does not intend to desist from his criticism as such, and proposes to continue expressing his own view which favors a softer line.

In MA'ARIV on Friday, the defence minister was reported as telling his friends that Premier Begin's position today was similar to that of Eshkol on the eve of the six-day war. Just as Eshkol then lacked the courage to make war, so too Begin today lacks the courage to make peace, Weizman allegedly said.

KNESSET LIKUD LEADER AGAINST WEIZMAN'S RESIGNATION

NC241507Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 24 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Defense Minister Weizman's criticism of the government stand has sparked a furor in the Likud Party; some called for his resignation. In this interview, the Likud's Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, talks to Shim'on Ayalon about the issues. [begin recording]

[Question] Do you think that Mr Weizman should resign over the remarks over the stand that he took in opposition to the stand of the prime minister and the majority of the cabinet?

[Answer] Well, as I said, there's been a denial that these remarks have been made and, therefore, my position is that they were not made.

[Question] I am not so much talking about the remarks themselves but about the position he had taken by the voting against the cabinet; not the remarks which were attributed to Mr Weizman but over the factual issues as they stand--as you know them.

[Answer] Well, in my own opinion, the defense minister went too far by voting against the government's position. I think he certainly would have been in his right in presenting his own position, in trying to convince the prime minister, and firstly the people in the Likud--and Likud ministers--that it should be his position that would be adopted. But after not having been successful--in my opinion, being a member of the government, on the part of Likud, representing Herut in the government and not just himself personally, I think he was bound--he should have accepted the government's position and given his support in the vote in the government. The fact that he did not do so, in my opinion, is not reason enough for him to resign. And I think if it is his intention and conviction that in the future he will observe the discipline that I think he has to observe within the party framework that he represents and, after throwing out his ideas and supporting his ideas, in the final analysis accept the position as it is being determined either by party caucus or by the Likud ministers in the government, then I think he can certainly continue in office.

[Question] What exactly is happening? Where is the opposition coming from to Mr Weizman? Where is his support coming from?

[Answer] Well, I don't think that there is any way of telling with any degree of accuracy today what the extent of support within Herut is--and I assume that that's what you're referring to--for exceptions that Mr Weizman has taken to the government stand. I don't think that he has any significant support in the party for that stand.

[Question] I'd like to come now to the American reaction to the decision made by the Israeli Government regarding the questions which America asked. America expressed its regret at the decision. Senator Javits yesterday went a step or two further. He said that he would like to shock Israel, perhaps, into some reaction. What is your opinion both of the American reaction and that expressed by Senator Javits?

[Answer] Well, I am afraid to say that the reaction is mistaken, and I know that Senator Javits is a very good friend of Israel, and a friend of long standing but I think he is mistaken in the view that he's taken. But, of course, the origin of the mistake I think was not in the answers that were provided by Israel and the reaction to these answers from the United States Government, but rather in the very questions themselves. I think, first of all, it's most unusual for one government to present another government with a set of questions and to suggest a set of answers which was the case here. I understand the administration presented Mr Dayan with the answers to the questions. This is unprecedented and unusual and, I think, first of all, it's most unusual for one government to present another government with a set of questions and to suggest a set of answers which was the case here. I understand the administration presented Mr Dayan with the answers to the questions. This is unprecedented and unusual and, I think, certainly not a positive way of discussing issues between two allies--and the United States and Israel are really countries in alliance with each other--but, worst of all, this is not at all conducive to the peace process. I think the administration, I am sure, not with any ill intentions, effectively is bringing about the aborting of the direct peace talks that finally came about between us and Egypt some 7 months ago when As-Sadat came to visit us--a situation that Israel has struggled for 30 years to attain: to come to the point where Arab leaders would talk directly to us, and the administration now is trying to revive negotiations by proxy, serving as a middleman whom we know is, and will continue to be, subject to severe Arab pressures--from the Saudis, both because of the energy crisis and the monetary situation that prevails due to the energy crisis. This can only serve as a disincentive to As-Sadat to carry on or resume the direct negotiations, which he broke up and we see the results. As-Sadat is angry, simply that he'd much prefer to have the United States put pressure on Israel than him returning to the negotiating table and I think the origin of this move was mistaken--presenting Israel with these questions which, of course, was already a form of pressure on Israel. It was my opinion--and I expressed it and I discussed it with the prime minister--that Israel should not have replied to these questions at all. It was clear to me that, regardless of whatever reply Israel provides, it would not be found to be satisfactory by the Arabs and, as a result, would not be found to be satisfactory by the official spokesmen of the administration.

And my recommendation to ourselves, and most certainly to our friends in the United States, in the administration in Washington, is to do everything possible to bring As-Sadat back to the negotiating table. And everything possible, in my opinion, does not include preconditions for negotiations. Negotiations have started, As-Sadat has interrupted them, and I think he must now be urged--and even pressured--to return to the negotiating table.

[Question] Do you think that the formulation--the actual putting up of the American questions to Israel--perhaps was intended to put Israel into a corner?

[Answer] There's no doubt about it in my mind at all. There's no doubt about it and I think we easily understand the reasons for it. I think the conclusions of the administration are mistaken. But the reasons--the background for the scenario--well, we know very well.

The United States is under pressure by the Arab world and by Saudi Arabia in particular-- because of the energy crisis, because of the cost of oil and the desire to assure a continued supply of oil--and I think the United States mistakenly finds that the only way that it can improve its relationships with the Arab world, increase its influence in the Arab world, assure itself of oil supply, assure itself that the price of oil will not be raised, is by demonstrating to the Arab countries that the United States is putting pressure on Israel and that the United States can attain certain objectives that the Arabs are aiming for, that the Arabs are not capable of attaining themselves and were not capable of attaining with the aid of the Soviet Union. [end recording]

POST: BEGIN'S POOR HEALTH AFFECTS CABINET'S WORK

TA260642Y Jerusalem POST in English 26 Jun 78 p 9 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] The issue of Prime Minister Begin's health will not go away.

Mr Begin's personal physician yesterday convened a press conference at which he sought to refute the latest claims, this time by TIME magazine, to the effect that the prime minister was so ill as to be unable to function during recurrent intervals.

It would take an equally prominent cardiologist with the relevant medical data at hand to dispute Mr Begin's doctor. TIME and the other foreign journals who have recently commented on Mr Begin's health were admittedly basing themselves only on impressions obtained from prominent but unnamed Hadassah Hospital physicians who were not attending the prime minister.

But one need not be a physician to dismiss out of hand exaggerated claims that Mr Begin "is well." Anyone who has seen the prime minister lately, or who has watched the cancellation of a number of his public appearances, and the conscious trimming of his public schedule, knows that he is not well.

Last year prior to the elections, Mr Begin's physicians also issued denials of the myocardial infarct which he had suffered. It was not until Mr Begin himself wisely announced the details and severity of his illness that the public learned the truth. As a result there is not a great fund of confidence in the public and political community in doctors' blanket statements.

But whatever the truth about Mr Begin's physical condition, the fact that he is perceived to be ailing is an undisputable political condition. It has weakened his hold on his colleagues in the cabinet and prompted preliminary soundings in the coalition and out about new political alignments.

At the same time however, Mr Begin, as prime minister, is the dominant figure that maintains the present alignment of political forces. These forces have an overriding interest in resisting any cabinet change, even if, like the Democratic Movement for Change, they are not always happy with Mr Begin's positions.

As a result the top level of our political life has become suffused with constant speculation and anticipation of governmental change coupled with a vested interest in denying and preventing it.

Orderly decision-making and cabinet unity under these circumstances is difficult. Denials by physicians won't change that.

OFFICE DENIES REPORTS ON BEGIN'S HEALTH

NC250629Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Sources in the prime minister's office have described a report published this week by TIME magazine as absurd and irresponsible. In this report, the TIME correspondent claims that Menahem Begin is not carrying out his functions properly because of his illness and the medicine he is taking.

Our political correspondent, Shalom Qital, has been informed that, from time to time, journalists tend to discuss the prime minister's health without checking the facts. The sources added that the prime minister is functioning properly and appearing in public, and that all reports pertaining to his health are irresponsible and unfounded.

These remarks were in reaction to a detailed article published by the weekly magazine TIME in which it is reported that Mr Begin's mental and physical condition are shaky because of medicines he is taking against diabetes and a heart ailment and which have adverse effects on him.

WEIZMAN ASKS AL-JAMASI TO BE PATIENT ON PEACE PROPOSAL

TA251359Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman recently informed Egyptian Minister of War al-Jamasi that he had as yet no answer to the questions he had asked in his message to Israel a few weeks ago--and he asked that Al-Jamasi help him by being patient.

About 4 weeks ago it was reported that General al-Jamasi sent a message to the defense minister. This was a reply to Weizman's appeal proposing to renew the direct talks between the two countries. To this Al-Jamasi replied in his message that he would be happy to hear from Weizman what were the issues and the proposal which in his view, could get the talks started again.

The defense minister tried to raise this question for debate [in the cabinet] but the matter was put off several times. He thought that the reply to Al-Jamasi would be agreed on at last week's session, but this did not occur.

WEIZMAN INTERVIEWED ON FUTURE, POLITICAL OPINIONS

TA232032Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1825 GMT 23 Jun 78 TA

[Text] He has so far promised one thing and he lives up to his promise--at least up to this moment: he devotes himself only to matters concerning the Defense Ministry. 'Ezer Weizman, who on Sunday raised his hand against the cabinet's decision, remains silent regarding anything that has to do with his political way from now on. His expressions used in times of frustration and anger such as the one in which he said that he was going to prepare the army for war have created "richochets" and calls for his resignation. However, Weizman does not react. He talks to the press through his associates, as they are called. Only today did our correspondent for party affairs, Dan Raviv, succeed in catching him for a few minutes near his house in Tel Aviv and hear from him briefly that he does not intend to resign and that he will fight for his political way. [Begin videotape]

[Question] Mr Defense Minister, is the discussion now underway and which has been underway in the cabinet, on problems of words or, in your opinion, on matters of substance? If so--what are they?

[Answer] First of all, Dan, how did you get to me at home so early in the morning? It is on the eve of Sabbath. However, it is very nice. The discussion concerns matters of substance, and its obvious outcome is also verbal. But in essence it is on substance and how one sees the moves in the important and great political issue of: is it possible or not to make progress toward peace.

[Question] What is your "substance" in this discussion, Mr Weizman?

[Answer] Look, my "substance" is, first of all--one cannot answer briefly. If you, want I am prepared to talk longer on television.

[Question] Ready? Please, when?

[Answer] With pleasure. As for when--we shall see about this in the office. The substance is first and foremost putting an emphasis on the direct negotiations with the Egyptians. However, perhaps the first and most important is on whether I believe that there is sincerity--even if limited sincerity--in President as-Sadat's approach. I believe so.

[Question] With the formula accepted by the cabinet, Mr Weizman, what, in your opinion, will happen now?

[Answer] I would not like to elaborate on this. I hope that I am wrong and I hope that the cabinet's formula will bring about the resumption of the negotiations.

[Question] In any case, it is a fact that President as-Sadat did not reject the cabinet's formula and he is still prepared to continue the negotiations.

[Answer] This only proves that I am right, that he sincerely wants peace.

[Question] Do you assume that on this basis he will be prepared to go toward peace?

[Answer] I doubt it, but I still hope and I estimate that the process can still be maneuvered, and maneuvered in a positive manner, even though I reject the formula that was accepted.

[Question] In what way do you suppose the negotiations can be maneuvered now? Through the United States whose vice president intends to come to Israel?

[Answer] In any possible way. However, I still put the stress on the direct approach toward the Egyptians, an approach which we maintain.

[Question] Do you believe that today there is a possibility of renewing the negotiations with Egypt in any way? In a direct way?

[Answer] Dan, I must get to the office today. It is difficult for me to estimate at this moment. I hope so.

[Question] As for your position in the cabinet, Mr Weizman, allow me to ask you, whether you feel isolated in the cabinet today?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Do you think you might consider resigning on the grounds of your position regarding the negotiations?

[Answer] No, no, no.

[Question] Why not, Mr Weizman?

[Answer] Because, I believe that inside the government, and with my feeling that I am not isolated within the government, I will influence my way and at the moment I feel that, more than ever before, it is my duty to remain in the Defense Ministry.

[Question] Would it be correct to say that you will embark on a struggle inside the cabinet for the acceptance of the formulas agreeable to you?

[Answer] I do not think that in the cabinet you fight for status. You fight for opinions, no doubt. I also think there will be a discussion. I hope we will straighten it out. I shall make every effort so that the path in which I believe will be at least partially acceptable to my colleagues.

[Question] Mr Weizman, many things were attributed to you that you allegedly said. Just one more question.

[Answer] Dan, you are holding a full interview! No, I suggest that at this point we stop. So far we have said much and you asked much. A stormy week has passed and I am certainly in favor of calming the spirits. I repeat, I will do my best so that my way will be accepted without cutting myself off even further from the government.

[Question] Mr Weizman, all sorts of expressions made in the cabinet are attributed to you, some outbursts. What is happening with this?

[Answer] First of all, they are not outbursts. Not outbursts, expressions--yes, undoubtedly. I am not denying having said some harsh, hot things in my evaluation of what had taken place. However, this was within the cabinet offices, not in a public place. It is a shame that it came out, but I am not denying some of the things that were said.

[Question] In any case, so that it is clear, the expression "liars," did you use it?

[Answer] I have denied it. I have said several things and I suggest that we proceed with other things.

[Question] Are you maintaining contact with Egypt through your people?

[Answer] Certainly, certainly, certainly, certainly, there is the telephone, there are contacts. They used to be much closer because they were more substantive. At the moment, they include only "hello," "hello," a good morning rather than substantial peace. I repeat once again that I think that this existing contact can be developed even further, and it is a must that we develop it more. I hope it does develop.

[Question] MK Grupper has been quoted as saying that every 2 or 3 days you talk over the phone with...

[Answer] MK Grupper is a nice fellow, but he is not my spokesman, and he said what he said. I do not have such contacts that I pick up the receiver and say, "good morning, General al-Jamasi," but I do have a connection, and it is a fact. I can make that connection any time I want. These relationships which we have reached after 30 years, relationships of a direct connection with the Egyptian top leadership--I think they are important and one should take hold of them and develop them.

[Question] Mr Weizman, are you interested in appearing before the Herut Movement center, or before various forums of the Herut Movement?

[Answer] Wait, I shall appear wherever I am invited. I do not invite myself. Wherever I am invited, I shall appear. If I am not invited, I shall continue the X number of hours of work per day in the Ministry of Defense.

[Question] To conclude, Mr Weizman, what is your scenario regarding what is expected in the coming weeks?

[Answer] No, no, no Dan. Not briefly and no scenarios. There are several scenarios. I repeat once more what I said before: I hope that despite the cabinet's reply, the negotiations will continue. [end videotape]

JERUSALEM REPORTS ON TENSION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA231328Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 23 Jun 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] To open the Midday Newsreel, let us look at southern Lebanon, where the struggle between the terrorists and the UN troops continues, as well as the struggle between the terrorists and the militia forces. This struggle is over control of the territory evacuated by the IDF in order to determine faits accomplis in this sector. Within this tripartite struggle the confrontation settlements are living in both hope and fear of what is to come. Yehezqel Hame'iri reports from the northern border:

The hopes and fears are understandable, since after all no authority today bears any sort of responsibility for what is happening in southern Lebanon, including the 10-km strip next to the Israeli border. This strip was under the control of Majors Haddad and Shidyaq, the southern commanders of what was the Army of Lebanon, who are today confined to their bases; Haddad in (Al-Sakava), which is on the outskirts of Al-Qulay'ah; and Shidyaq in his command headquarters in 'Ayn Ibil. In accordance with orders from Beirut--or to be more precise, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss--they are forbidden from any military activity in the field. Haddad is spending these days with his family in Metulla or Qiryat Shemona, while Shidyaq often visits Nahariya. Each spends time in the Israeli settlements near his sector, taking care to wear civilian dress at a time when clashes are taking place and further degeneration is expected at any moment. Haddad and Shidyaq are avoiding making statements and have been more restrained than they have been up to now.

However, those close to them claim that they are bitter and are accusing Salim al-Huss of deliberately endangering the southern area in order to permit the terrorists to return to their positions in the south, this time under the defense umbrella of the United Nations.

As for the Lebanese militia forces who are not in control of the border strip near Israel, there are differences of opinion among them. In fact, they have (?no) agreed leader in their ranks who can [word indistinct]. They are split into five different organizations: those who are calling to ignore completely the open or concealed leadership of Haddad and Shidyaq because they have obeyed the orders of Beirut, and those who are continuing to declare that Haddad and Shidyaq were and are their supreme commanders--commanders who are temporarily, against their will, the prisoners of Beirut. Therefore, they are demanding that Beirut take back its declaration in order to return command to the two officers.

However, the militiamen are accusing the foreign media of issuing twisted and false reports intended to blacken their names and present them as a large gang of hooligans who are more dangerous to themselves and to the UN personnel than to the terrorists. They emphatically deny reports published yesterday about exchanges of fire between them and the Norwegian units in the eastern sector. Today the militiamen praised the performance of the dozens of Norwegians in their first test of fire yesterday with the terrorists in the region of Rashayya al-Fukhkhah on the slopes of Mt Hermon.

The militia forces have only partially lifted their blockade against the Norwegian units; they are permitting free passage of supplies to the UN bases. The militiamen told me this morning that if they had known that the UN troops are determined to prevent the terrorists' return and are indeed capable of standing up against them, they would have come to an arrangement or agreement with them at once, since all the militiamen want is to guarantee the safety of families and homes.

In the wake of yesterday's exchanges of fire between the terrorists and the UN troops, the tension in the sector mounted today because of fear that the terrorists would repeat their attempt to return to the area. The tension is also felt in the confrontation settlements. The IDF has increased its alertness and the settlers have organized themselves to be even more alert. The vacuum created in the south, I was told, cannot last much longer; someone or something will have to return and fill the vacuum, according to all the rules.

SIILASVUO UNHAPPY OVER IDF AT UN-HADDAD MEETINGS

TA251426Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Excerpt] The coordinator of the UN forces in the Middle East, Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, expressed surprise to the defense minister and the chief of staff over the fact that representatives of the IDF are continuing to attend meetings held between Major Haddad and UN representatives in southern Lebanon--although the IDF has already retreated from the area.

It is reported from UN sources that no official complaint has been lodged on this matter, but it has been confirmed that the matter was discussed in talks between General Siilasvuo and senior Israeli representatives.

The reference is to meetings held by senior UN officers with the commander of the Christian forces in the enclaves, Major Haddad. These meetings were held in Lebanon, mostly in the enclave north of Marj 'Uyun.

According to the United Nations, Lt Col Yoram Mizrahi, who for about 2 years was the IDF's liaison officer with Major Haddad and the people from the enclaves, took part in these meetings. In the past UN personnel did not complain about the participation of an IDF representative in such contacts--but following the IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon they regard this as "harmful." It is not known what Israel's reaction was to this complaint.

DAVAR: EGYPTIAN PRESSURE CHANGED MONDALE ITINERARY

TA251353Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Jun 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Text] Jerusalem evaluates that Washington has given way to Egyptian pressure by deciding that Vice President Walter Mondale will visit Egypt at the end of his visit to Israel.

At first it was officially determined and stated that Mondale would visit only Israel and, in reply to the Egyptian complaint, it was stated that Mondale's visit to Israel was to balance President Carter's visit to Aswan. However, it appears that the Egyptians applied heavy pressure and claimed that if Mondale visited just Israel this would be degrading for Egypt and harm As-Sadat's status.

Mondale will arrive in Israel with an entourage of 40 Jewish leaders, as well as journalists and a large team of advisers, in two planes. It is not clear whether the Jewish leaders will also accompany Mondale on his trip to Egypt. The schedule of Mondale's visit to Israel has not yet been finalized, including the question of the nature of his visit to the Western Wall.

At any rate, it is clear that the visit will be of a political, not just ceremonial, nature. A senior team from the State Department and the National Security Council will accompany him. It appears that this will be the first stage in a new political and diplomatic round initiated by the United States. After Mondale's visit, U.S. special envoy Alfred Atherton will arrive and it may be that within a few weeks U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will visit the area. The Jerusalem Foreign Ministry does not know to date of any plan for a tripartite meeting in London between the foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt, and Israel.

Reviews will be presented at today's cabinet session of the contacts with the United States after the cabinet decision last week and of the American's reaction to Israel's replies. It is evaluated in Jerusalem that no further U.S. questions are to be expected of Israel and that a new political process can be expected which will be coordinated between the United States and Egypt. The United States does not think that any further Egyptian answers to Israeli questions can be expected. At Ambassador Lewis' meeting with Foreign Minister Dayan, the United States, in fact, already informed Dayan of Egypt's unofficial replies to Israel's questions. The replies were formulated as U.S. evaluations of the Egyptian stance on Israel's questions.

It appears that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is minimizing the gravity of the U.S. reaction to Israel's replies and that Prime Minister Menahem Begin regards matters with greater seriousness and expects the risk of U.S. pressure in the near future. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman thinks that, had his proposal been accepted, it would have been possible to prevent U.S. pressure and advance the negotiations.

ROMANIAN OFFICIAL CONCLUDES VISIT TO ISRAEL

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[Text] After a talk with his Romanian counterpart, Commerce Minister Yigal Horowitz said that within 10 months commerce between Israel and Romania may increase greatly. Our correspondent has learned that there are agreements worth hundreds of millions of Israeli pounds. Romanian Secretary of State for the Food Industry Petre Blajovici said that he had been most impressed with the level of Israeli technology in marketing and packing. Romania, he said, is interested in plants for meat and bakery products and the margarine and fats industries.

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